THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

SIXTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1887. NUMBER 243.

THE LEGISLATURE'S DOINGS.

The Advocates of Submission in Lincoln Postpone the Vote.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE SHELVED.

The House Votes in Favor of Grand Island For the Soldiers' Home—Many Bills Recommended For Passage.

Senate Proceedings.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The senate met at 10 o'clock and took up bills on third reading. The first on file was No. 14, to submit the question of a prohibition amendment to the people. Mr. Sterling said that as Mr. Brown, who introduced the bill, was absent on account of sickness, he thought that the bill should be placed at the foot of the file of bills on third reading.

Mr. Schminke strenuously objected to deferring the bill so often. He was ready to record his vote on it and did not think the proposed action right under the rule.

The chair decided that the only motion that could be considered would be one to recommit the bill to the general file.

Mr. Linn then made a motion accordingly, which was carried.

The next bill was Mr. Colby's, senate file 23, to provide for arbitration between employes and corporations. Mr. Robbins said the bill was gotten up for buncombe and was lax in many particulars. There was nothing in it to prevent the discharge of employes when they resorted to arbitration, and hence provided no practical benefit. The legislature could not make a law that would interfere with a contract between individuals, and the courts had repeatedly decided such laws unconstitutional. The bill passed.

Mr. Robbins' bill, No. 28, came next. It provides that the names of freeholders who sign petitions for the privilege to sell liquor be printed in the newspapers, that the public may examine them in order to find that they are genuine. The bill was passed without the emergency clause, by a vote of 19.

The most important bill to come up for passage was that of Mr. Snell, the chief object of which was to grant the privilege of municipal suffrage to women. Mr. Vandemark made an argument against the bill which was well put and incontrovertible. The bill was lost by a vote of 17 to 11. Thus did unfeeling man blast the hopes of aspiring woman.

Senate file 88 was passed, relinquishing the state's title in certain lots in Lincoln in favor of John Gillespie.

Bill 145 pertaining to the state horticultural society, was passed. A number of bills were introduced. No bills can be introduced after to-morrow.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. Fuller offered a resolution requesting the secretary of state to furnish the senate documents relative to the territory from which the county of Thurston is proposed to be carved.

Mr. Duras introduced a bill prohibiting any lottery or scheme of chance to be held in the state by whatever name, style or title.

The senate went into committee of the whole, Mr. Majors in the chair.

Senate file 38 was first considered. It provides that a widow may remain in the dwelling house of her husband after his death so long as she remains a widow without being chargeable with rent. The bill was reported favorably.

Senate file No. 121, amendatory of the statutes relating to insane, was recommended to pass.

Senate file 101, fixing the penalty upon libel, as follows, was discussed: "If any person shall write, print or publish any false or malicious libel of or concerning another, or shall cause or procure any such libel to be written or published, every person so offending shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in any sum not exceeding $500, or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding six months, or both, at the discretion of the court; and, moreover, be liable to the party injured. Provided, that if said libel is published in a newspaper having a general circulation the person so offending shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than one nor more than three years."

Mr. Snell explained that the bill was intended to punish such libel as if it were a felony.

Mr. Casper said the bill, if passed, would make every constable, ward bummer and crank a candidate in the justice's courts for libel judgment. The State Journal had published a malicious falsehood about the speaker in saying he had sold himself out to the railroads by accepting passes to take his wife east for treatment, but he relied upon his record at home and in the senate to refute the libel. He said that if the Journal people had any manhood and decency they would do what they could to make amends, but he would not seek redress in the courts.

Mr. Schminke said that if he had prosecuted every editor who lied about him he would long ago have turned all his money over to the lawyers.

Mr. Duras said if the law passed the time would come when all the newspaper men would be in jail. They all claim to be poor men, and of course would be obliged to go to jail. Every issue of a newspaper contained a lie, and if everybody would sue them he was afraid we would soon have no newspapers in the state. To prevent this awful calamity he opposed the bill.

Mr. Vandemark said he did not care how much the newspapers attacked him. In every case where he had been maligned it had redounded to his glory. He would pursue his mad career and answer all charges as did the man who burnt the temple of Diana—to immortalize himself.

Mr. Moore favored the bill. At present a man could make a false and malicious attack upon the reputation of a good citizen and be not liable for criminal prosecution. "Our reputations and the feelings of our relatives are of more importance than the little property we may possess. It is a more serious offense to malign a man than to deprive him of property. I think that the bill is right and that it would do no harm to any just man."

Mr. Lininger read the statutes and said the present law covered the case fully. Another law was unnecessary.

Mr. Meiklejohn offered an amendment of the phraseology which was accepted and the bill recommended to pass.

Senate file 104 was taken up. It provides that "every person licensed as provided, who, by himself, his agent, servant or clerk, shall give or sell any malt, spirituous or vinous liquors, or any intoxicating drink to any minor, apprentice or servant under twenty-one years of age, or any person so licensed who shall, by himself, his agent, servant or clerk, suffer or permit to enter his place of business, or to remain therein, any minor under the age of twenty-one years, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor for each offense, and upon conviction thereof he shall be imprisoned in the county jail not less than thirty days nor more than three months, and he shall pay the costs of prosecution." It also prohibits the sale of liquor to any Indian, insane person or habitual drunkard, or upon Sunday and election days, under heavy penalties. The bill was recommended to pass.

Senate file 53 called out quite a display of statesmanship. It reads as follows:

"Be it resolved by the senate and the house of representatives of the state of Nebraska, that the passage of a bill by congress submitting an amendment to the federal constitution whereby United States senators can be elected by a direct vote of the people would meet the approval of the people of the state of Nebraska.

"Resolved, That we earnestly urge upon congress the passage of a bill at the earliest day possible of the present session of congress submitting the question of an amendment to the constitution."

Mr. Vandemark said that should the federal constitution be amended as was prayed for in this memorial, it would sap the very foundation upon which the government rests. It would destroy the theory of states rights and states sovereignty. It could not be done. The house represented the people and the senate the sovereignty of the state. The dual government is the creation of our forefathers and it had stood the test of generations in the grandest republic the world had ever known. He opposed the bill.

Mr. Duras, who introduced the bill, spoke in its behalf. He said that time had demonstrated that many amendments were necessary to the federal constitution. The time had come for a change in the manner of electing a United States senator. The framers of our state constitution had recognized this necessity and ten years ago had provided that the people might express their preference at the ballot box for United States senator. This is as far as they could go under the federal constitution, but there was no doubt that they saw the wisdom of the proposed measure.

The bill was recommended to pass.

Senate file No. 58, setting forth the manner in which unorganized territory can be formed into counties, was recommended to pass.

Senate file 66, relative to the purchase of real estate for taxes by county officials, was recommended to pass.

Senate file 80, fixing procedure in instituting a lein for wages, was discussed, the committee asking leave to sit again upon it.

Senate file 59, defining the boundary of Inman county, was recommended to pass.

Senate file 90, providing that deeds executed in other states shall be legal in this state, was recommended to pass.

Senate file 210, to regulate the sale of liquor by druggists, was recommended to pass. The object of this bill is to keep the sale of liquor as a beverage in the saloons, and not allow drug stores to run saloons without paying license. The bill was recommended to pass.

The committee then arose. The senate adopted its report and adjourned.

NOTES.

I talked to Senator Meiklejohn with reference to his vote on the Omaha charter bill. Among other things he said: "I did my best to ascertain the desire of a majority of the citizens of Omaha, and voted accordingly. No matter how I vote on many questions, I am charged by some one or other of having congressional aspirations. I have never had any such idea."

A woman suffragist ran up against a snag when she essayed to convert a wayward member from Cass, the other day. She had become a little out of patience with him because he would not admit that women were down-trodden and divested of God-given rights. "Think of your wife, at home," said she. "Will you not permit her wishes to influence your vote on this question?" "Madame, the last thing that my wife said to me was to request that I do not vote for this proposition, and I will add for your benefit, that when she enters politics I'll get out."

Some of the senators speak well, but they go over the same ground twice in one speech. In other words, they don't stop when they get through. Shakespeare never repeats.

The secretary of the senate has a severe cold.

It is all right for a member to explain his vote, but it is far from right for him to transmit an explanation of no vote at all.

The house bill to extend the penitentiary contract was read the first time in the senate to-day.

There were only three ladies on the floor of the senate at the funeral of the bill to grant municipal suffrage to women.

At precisely 2:28 Mr. Vandemark rose to a question of privilege and said: "Mr. President—Referring to the vote on the Omaha charter yesterday and the BEE's report of its proceedings, I take no exception to the report except upon my absence, and I do not take any exception to that, but the Omaha BEE added, 'as usual.' If it was another paper I would ask a correction, but as it is the Omaha BEE I do not ask a correction." Mr Vandemark don't know when he is well treated.

Doings in the House.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The house, after a long debate, determined this morning, 65 to 48, that it could not or would not delegate its power of locating a soldiers' home to a commission. As soon as the special order was reached and the bill came up for final consideration, Mr. Rief moved that the house proceed to fill the blanks left in it for a location. As an amendment to this motion, Mr. Randall moved an entire substitute for section 3, which provided that the location should be determined by seven commissioners, who should be selected by a joint session of both houses of the legislature, and who should be old soldiers. The substitute was voted down and then a motion to ballot for the location prevailed. Grand Island was the choice of ninety-six of the members and was placed in the blank. It was worth the "price of admission," and more too, to see Mr. Rief's hearty, wholesome face light up and become wreathed with smiles when the vote was announced. He has made a square, honest fight for the location of the home at his city. Grand Island, through 127 leading business men, guaranteed 640 acres of fine land three miles out, and will probably also raise money to adorn the grounds of the institution when built. The bill establishing the home was ordered engrossed and comes up for passage to-morrow. It appropriates $30,000.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The first business of the afternoon was the reception of reports of committees.

Upon the question of indefinitely postponing the bill repealing a portion of the lien law, number 386, Mr. Raymond moved that the recommendation of the committee should not be adopted. He said that the very fact that every lumber and material dealer in this state was opposing this bill entitled it to merit in his eyes. The law now says that there are a favored few in this state, that the man who supplied the material for a building has a complete prior claim upon every part of that building to the exclusion of the claim of every man who has labored upon the structure. He stood upon the broad platform of equality before the law.

Mr. Slater said that there was a sting in the bill to capital. Labor goes hand in hand with capital. Let one fall and the other must. He was opposed to it.

Mr. Agee favored the bill, and Mr. Raymond replied to him quite energetically, charging the former with the peculiarity of favoring everything which smacked of monopoly.

Mr. Miller opposed the bill, and Mr. Whitmore also opposed it.

Mr. Jeary believed it was to the best interests of the country to allow the lien law to remain as it is. The country ought to be built up and a repeal of the bill would retard that building.

Mr. Randall favored the report of the committee. He said that the bill had brought forth a great many protests, but they had been from farmers and not from lumber dealers.

The report of the committee was sustained and the bill was indefinitely postponed.

The following bills were also, upon recommendation of the committees from whom they came, indefinitely postponed.

To provide for the commencement and prosecutions of actions before justices of the peace and wherein justices of the peace have jurisdiction in the precinct, wherein the defendant in such actions may reside or live, and to provide . . . . that such actions shall be commenced only in the precinct wherein the defendant may reside.

To declare stipulations for attorney fees in notes or mortgages for money void.

To declare taking more than 10 per cent interest usury, and to punish it by $100 fine.

To appropriate $8,000 for payment of bounties for destruction of wild animals.

To punish false representations as to the price paid for any promissory notes the same as swindling.

To abate nuisances by giving justices of the peace power to issue an injunction.

To amend the disqualifications of judges or justices of the peace.

To provide that a married woman shall have exempt from attachment, execution or forced sale the same personal property and real estate as a homestead obtained under the law as a married man.

For the relief of David Van Etten. This is an old-timer, and has been fired over the transom so many times that it has acquired the India rubber rebound and appears smilingly at every session.

To provide for the survey of towns and town lots, and make the cost of survey a lien on the real estate.

Filling vacancies in appointive and elective offices.

Upon motion of Mr. Fox, the house went into committee of the whole, that gentleman in the chair, upon the appropriation bills for charitable institutions.

Mr. Caldwell made an excuse for the committee on public lands and buildings, saying that its report was not ready on account of his own and his clerk's sickness. He would, however, make an oral report if it should be insisted upon.

Mr. Tingle said that, as he understood it, these committees had visited the charitable institutions and had gleaned information concerning their needs. The house was entitled to a report from the committees before it undertook to pay out the people's money.

A motion that the committee arise was carried. The house then went into committee again upon the general file. This move disposed of the institution appropriation bills and brought the regular bills before the consideration of the house.

The bill to amend the law relating to working roads dragged its weary length through the committee to a reconsideration for passage.

The bill to provide for the registration of judgments against counties was also recommended for passage.

The bill to reduce witness fees to five cents a mile and pay for only one day's attendance was indefinitely postponed.

The bill exempting cities of the metropolitan class from the requirement of obtaining signatures of one-third of the electors of a district before a vote may be ordered upon the issuance of bonds for school purposes, met with some little opposition but was recommended for passage.

In view of the fact that this is charter day at the university, the committee of the whole by unanimous consent took up the bill for the construction of a building upon the university grounds for "practical and scientific instruction of the industrial classes in the various pursuits of life, and for the teaching of those branches of learning which are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts" It appropriates $50,000.

Speaker Harlan moved reconsideration of section 1, in which the location of the proposed school is placed upon the grounds of the University of Nebraska, at Lincoln. He believed that the new building should be located on the farm, three miles out. This called forth Chancellor Manatt, who was given permission to speak. He claimed that the location of the building on the farm would necessitate two faculties. All of the students of agriculture would study chemistry, botany and horticulture, and professors would have to be located at both places. The chemical laboratory, also, on the present university grounds would be utilized.

Upon consideration of the first section Mr. Agee offered an amendment that the cost and furnishing of the building should be not more than $50,000, but it was lost. The section was then adopted. The bill was recommended for passage.

The bill providing that county officers shall return to the county all fees collected by them in excess of $1,500 for county judge and clerk and $2,000 for sheriff and treasurer, except in counties with over 25,000 inhabitants, where the sums are raised to $3,000 and $2,500 for treasurer and sheriff, was recommended for passage.

The committee arose.

The privileges and elections committee reported again on the contest case from Sarpy county, in which Mr. Snell claims a right to Mr. McKenna's seat, recommending that Snell should be seated. The report was not acted upon, and an effort on the part of the committee to make it the special order for to-morrow afternoon failed.

Mr. Smyth offered the following resolution:

"Be it resolved by the house of representatives, That the state board of printing be requested to enforce the provisions of the contract made with the printer of the house rolls."

The resolution was adopted. It is understood that this contemplates fining Henry Gibson $25 upon each one of several bills which have been delayed and which have thus lost their places upon the file.

Another resolution instructing the judiciary committee to ascertain by a recount of the vote on the constitutional amendment relating to length of the legislature and pay of members, if it had not passed, was adopted.

A number of bills were introduced.

The bill to punish pickpockets as felons was ordered engrossed and is ready for final reading.

Adjournment was taken until to-morrow morning at 10.

The Charter Bill.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The Omaha charter bill will probably come up in the house to-morrow, being held back to-day by the pressure of business in committee of the whole.

Temperance Women in Session.

SUTTON, Neb., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The annual county convention of the Women's Christian Temperance union met here to-day, Mrs. Dr. Cassell, of Edgar, presiding. The address of welcome was delivered by Mrs. Dr. Kendall, of Sutton, and responded to by Mrs. A. B. Smith, of Fairfield. Short addresses were delivered by Mrs. Jones, of Hastings, and Colonel Hall, a temperance evangelist. A large number of prominent temperance women were in attendance from Fairbury, Geneva, Hastings, Edgar, Fairfield, Clay Centre and other points. Organization is being accomplished for a red hot campaign at the coming spring elections. One town, Alexandria, reports a membership of ninety. There seems to be unusual activity in this organization at the present time.

Two Sudden Deaths.

SEWARD, Neb., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Mrs. John Conley, wife of a farmer living near Seward, died very suddenly yesterday. She had been assisting her husband in getting in a load of hay, and after it was loaded on the wagon started to ride home on the load. On the way in, however, she fell to the ground and sustained severe internal injuries, from which she died in a short time. No one was with her at the time but her husband. Her death caused considerable talk among the neighbors, but the coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts.

Miss Clara Morris, niece of Henry Morris, died very suddenly yesterday of quick consumption.

A Pythian Event.

CHADRON, Neb., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Last night Sheridan lodge, No. 64, Knights of Pythias, was instituted at Rushville, Neb., with forty-three charter members. The lodge was instituted by G. V. C. J. B. Chapman, of Arlington, Neb. The event was attended by a delegation of twenty Chadron knights. A banquet was given the Chadron delegation and other visiting members, who speak of it as an enjoyable affair. Rushville is the county seat of Sheridan county, located in a fine farming country, is growing rapidly and is a live town.

Arrested For Blackmailing.

KEARNEY, Neb. Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—S. W. Montgomery was taken to Lincoln by a United States marshal to-day on the charge of representing himself to be a government detective. He has been threatening housekeepers with contets unless they bought him off.

Ashland Votes Water Works.

ASHLAND, Neb., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The election for water works bonds was carried here to-day, the vote being 258 for and 32 against. The amount voted was $13,000.

Fatally Burned With Benzine.

DETROIT, Feb. 15.—A little before 4 o'clock this afternoon, in Hoffner's furniture store, while the children of the proprietor were playing about the stove, it was upset and a can of benzine exploded, throwing the burning fluid over the children and burning them horribly. They were carried to a sidewalk outside and are still alive, although suffering terribly. They cannot recover. Their names are Eliza Hoffner, aged five; Henry, aged three; Eddie, aged two. The father, Edward Hoffner, is in a critical condition.

Missionary Murderers Condemned.

MELBOURNE, Feb. 15.—Advices from the Friendly Islands say that six natives were sentenced to death for assaulting Missionary Baker. The king has refused a petition presented by the Wesleyan missionaries on the islands asking that mercy be shown the condemned men.

Another Bond Call Expected.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—It is expected that a call for $10,000,000 3 per cent bonds will be issued next week and that the entire 3 per cent loan, of which there is now about $40,000,000 outstanding, will be entirely extinguished before the 1st of July.

Stettin's State of Siege.

BERLIN, Feb. 15.—The bundesrath has approved the act of the government declaring Stettin in a minor state of siege.

OLD FRIENDS MUST PART.

Secretary Manning's Letter of Resignation Given to the Public.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S REPLY.

Grover's Only Consolation in the Separation is the Fact That Daniel Will Remain a Democrat—April 1 the Day.

Manning-Cleveland Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The following correspondence between the president and Secretary Manning in regard to the latter's withdrawal from the cabinet was made public this morning:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Feb. 14.—My Dear Sir: In view of the fact of the near adjournment of congress, and in order that time may suffice for the selection and confirmation of my successor, I desire to again place my resignation of the office of secretary of the treasury in your hands and trust you will now deem its acceptance no detriment to the public service. When you requested me last June to delay insisting upon the acceptance of my resignation, as again in our conference last October, you honored me with such terms of personal consideration and expressed so grave a decision in respect to the requirements of the public service, that it was as impossible to question my duty as to forget your kindness. I have not spared myself in the endeavor to comply with your wish and to contribute to the support of the policies which have illustrated your administration. The approaching end of the Forty-ninth congress marks a period in your own term of office and in the divisions of our political calendar. If a change must occur in the heads of departments and at your council board, it is clear that your personal convenience and public interests are subserved should it occur now. Moreover, the financial situation is to be seriously different from that which opened before us when the present congress entered upon its life and upon opportunities, created by the transfer of the people's trust to new hands. In this most critical condition, the circumspect execution of a wise fiscal policy, or of administrative reforms in the collection and disbursement of our colossal revenues, is not alone demanded, though labors such as these have exacted and exhibited the abilities of our foremost statesmen since the constitution of the government. But there is also an exhausting round of daily administrative tasks which, however subordinate and clerical, an efficient secretary of the treasury cannot or should not evade. These are tasks beyond my present strength. I therefore submit to your considerate judgment that, in asking release by the 4th of March, or as soon as you may select my successor, I fulfill the duty to my family that may now be permitted to outweigh the duty of accepting longer that assignment of public service which, two years ago, you did me the honor to make. Returning to the ranks of that great party which has called you to its lead, I shall still hope to follow its fortunes under your successful guidance with fellow citizens of loyal pride. Very respectfully yours, DANIEL MANNING.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Feb. 15.—Hon. Daniel Manning, Secretary of the Treasury—My Dear Sir: Your formal letter of resignation which I have received, though not entirely unexpected, presents the reality of severance of our official relations and causes me the deepest regret. This is tempered only by the knowledge that the frank and friendly relations which have unbrokenly existed between us are to still continue. I refer to these because such personal relations supply, after all, whatever of comfort and pleasure the world affords, and because I feel it to be almost superfluous to speak of the aid and support you have given me, and the assistance you have furnished to the administration of the government during the time you have directed the affairs of the exacting and laborious office which you now seek to surrender. Your labors, your achievements, your success, and your devotion to public duty are fully seen and known, and they challenge the appreciation and gratitude of all of your countrymen. Since I must at last relinquish my hope of your continuance at my side as counsellor and co-laborer, and since I cannot question the reasons upon which your request to be relieved is based, it only remains for me to accept the resignation you have tendered and to express my profound thanks for all that you have done for me in sharing manfully my labors and perplexities of the past two years. I feel that I may ask of you that the first day of April next be fixed as the date at which your resignation shall take effect, and that you will so regulate what remains to you of official duty in the meantime as to secure that measure of freedom from vexatious labor which you have so justly earned. With the earnest hope that in any new path of life you may hereafter follow there may be allowed to you more of comfort and of ease than the conscientious discharge of duty here permits, I am, very sincerely your friend,

GROVER CLEVELAND.

The president will nominate a successor to Secretary Manning before the adjournment of congress, but the appointment will not take effect, however, before April 1.

RIVERS AND HARBORS.

The Senate Committee's Work Completed—A New Scheme.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The senate committee on commerce has concluded its labors upon the river and harbor bill, which will be reported to-morrow. The detailed bill is not accessible to-night. The following are, however, the totals of the leading items which were increased by the committee: Hennepin canal, $50,000; Missouri river, from the mouth to Sioux City, $300,000; Mississippi, from St. Paul to Des Moines rapids, $150,000; lower Mississippi, $1,500,000. The total appropriation made by the bill is about $10,300,000.

The amendment to the river and harbor bill introduced by Senator Van Wyck to-day by request authorizes John Cowden and his associates to construct at their own expense an outlet for the flood waters of the Mississippi river from a point ten miles below New Orleans to Lake Borgne. For each foot of difference between the flood lines of the river brought about by the outlet project Cowden is to receive $500,000. One-half of the money is to be retained by the secretary of war, however, until a low water navigable channel of ten feet in depth is secured for the entire distance between New Orleans and Cairo, Ill. In case the depth of the channel is increased beyond ten feet for the entire distance from New Orleans to Cairo by reason of the outlet, the sum of $1,000,000 is to be paid for each additional foot of navigable depth secured.

The British Minister's Opinion.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—In an interview with a reporter for the Mail and Express, Sir Lionel West, British minister at Washington, said: "I do not anticipate any trouble whatever about the fishery question. Negotiations are now going forward in London between Minister Phelps and the British government, and I think the question will be finally settled before congress adjourns. Even if the retaliatory and non-intercourse bill goes through and becomes a law, I do not think the relations between this country and Canada will be strained. The president will have power to put the law in force or not as he sees proper, and that is a provision that will prevent any harsh and rash measures from being taken until all other pacific remedies are exhausted."

The Central Pacific Blockaded.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—A serious snow blockade exists on the Central Pacific railroad, between Colfax and Cisco. The overland train that left here yesterday is detained at Colfax and the west bound train at Cisco until yesterday.

The Retaliatory Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The fishery retaliatory bills were again discussed to-day by the house committee on foreign affairs. No conclusion was reached, but it is expected a vote on the pending bills will be taken to-morrow.

PARNELL'S HEALTH.

Alarmist Stories of His Illness Without Foundation.

[Copyright 1887, by James Gordon Bennett.]

LONDON, Feb. 15.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The alarmist news lately sent to America about the alleged serious illness of Mr. Parnell is exciting amazement here. Everybody in the lobby of the house of commons is saying "How much news we learn from some London correspondents." Mr. John Brady, secretary of the Irish land league, said to me this morning after reading three-quarters of a column describing Mr. Parnell's horrible condition: "There's scarcely a word of truth in the sensational statement. As for Mr. Parnell having had 'bronchitis, the forerunner of consumption,' 'Bright's disease,' etc., the statements are entirely wrong. I believe he is certainly going to take a rest, like Churchill, Gladstone and others overworked. But we will never allow him to resign his leadership of the Irish party."

Seeing the broad, burly form and intellectual face of Mr. John Joseph Clarey, member of parliament for the north division of the county of Dublin, I showed him the American statement. He looked as if about to say, with Dominie Sampson, "prodigious." The substance of what he said was:

These statements are utterly incorrect. About three months before Christmas Mr. Parnell was taken ill with gastritis and had a slight fever, during which he lost about three stone in weight, but he has since regained over a stone and is now in very good health and at his post in the house constantly. Only last night he was in consultation with his party until midnight, then he sat up all night drafting the new land bill. His illness was not of a chronic form nor was it 'hereditary with his family.' As for 'Mr. Healy succeeding him,' I may safely say that as Parnell is alive there will be no other leader of the Irish party. He has not yet made preparations for taking a holiday and says positively that he won't do so yet, although he is pressed by his colleagues to go as soon as the procedure debate is over."

Several knowing ones repeated the same things. I hear that those erroneous, indeed alarming statements are copied through the states and therefore it can only be just to Parnell's American friends to deny them.

To Revise the May Laws.

[Copyright 1887 by James Gordon Bennett.]

ROME, Feb. 15.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—I was informed at the vatican to-day that proposals will shortly be laid before the Prussian landtag annulling nearly all that remains of the May laws and giving the church satisfaction on all essential points, thus virtually closing the kultercampf.

A Big Appropriation For Arms.

PESTH, Feb. 15.—The government to-day submitted to the lower house of the Hungarian diet a bill appropriating 7,460,000 florins to supply the Hungarian landwehr and army reserves with stocks of war material and to equip the first band of the landsturm. All parties in the house agreed to vote for the passage of the bill without debate. The measure was at once referred to the military and financial committee of the house and was subsequently passed. The preamble to the bill explains that the credits asked for are demanded as a natural sequence of the adoption of the bill organizing the landsturm or volunteer service called out in time of war. The preamble goes on to say that in view of the military measures which other European states are taking, it would be a serious omission of Austro-Hungary to longer refrain from equipping the landsturm. The empire, it is added, is interested in peaceful progress. The efforts of government are directed to maintain peace, but if it is not desirable to be surprised the government must, like any one unwilling to sacrifice vital interests, be prepared in case of necessity to sacrifice everything in defense of monarchy.

Equipping the Landwehr.

VIENNA, Feb. 15.—The government has introduced a bill in the reichstag appropriating 12,000,000 florins for the equipment of the landwehr and landsturm.

A Jubilee Clemency.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 15.—Twenty-five thousand of the 75,000 prisoners confined in jails throughout India will be released to-morrow as an act of clemency to commemorate the jubilee of Queen Victoria.

Opposing a Packed Jury.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The Standard this morning says that several English radicals have agreed upon an arrangement to oppose any attempt of the crown council to pack the jury in the trial of John Dillon and his colleagues, which begins in Dublin this week.

A Panic in Egypt.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—A panic has been caused in financial and military circles at Cairo by the withdrawal of the annual subvention of £240,000 for expenses of the Egyptian army.

A MAN WITH A GLASS EYE.

Failure of Efforts to Transplant a Rabbit's Eye.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Charles A. Williams, city editor of the Minneapolis Tribune, when thirteen years of age, injured one of his eyes while celebrating the 4th of July. In May, 1885, Chibret, a Parisian occulist, made an attempt to insert a rabbit's eye. It failed and he advised that no further attempts be made. Four other efforts were made, however, without success. The case interested Dr. C. H. May, of this city, and he made experiments with twenty-four rabbits and made five transfers successfully. Williams was attracted by the experiment last year and on January 27 last came to this city for operation. A large rabbit with hazel eyes was selected and the operation performed February 1. The operation lasted one and a quarter hours. On the second day a slight haziness in the corners was noticed. On the fourth day the growth of the muscles was completed, and the rabbit's eye moved in unison with the human. On the evening of the eighth day a slight sloughing of the corner was observed, and it increased so that a great portion of the iris escaped and left the eye colorless, as the abrasion could not be healed without leaving great disfigurement. It was decided to remove the eye. This was done on the ninth day in twenty minutes, the patient being under the influence of cocaine. Since the eye was removed the cavity has been kept bandaged and covered with vaseline. Williams will wait until the healing process is finished and then have a glass eye inserted. As all the conditions of this case were most favorable, occulists accept it as a test one, and think it will be a long while before the operation is again attempted with human subjects. The reason given for the failure is that the rabbit's eye had not sufficient vitality to work alongside the human eye or operate the muscles and optical apparatus in the human head.

The Big Strike.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The business of the steamship and railroad companies along the river front has assumed its normal condition and freight is being moved as systematically as before the big strike.

The Italians who took the place of strikers on the Morgan line were all discharged to-day and colored help put in their places. The company are negotiating with the old hands to come back, and in the meantime the freight jam is as bad as during the first days of the strike.

JERSEY CITY, Feb. 15.—The striking freight handlers who were employed here by the Erie railroad company to-day sent a committee to wait on Superintendent Barrett and arbitrate the present differences. Superintendent Barrett informed the committee that there were no grievances and that no employment could at present be given by the company.

Several encounters occurred in Hoboken this afternoon between non-union longshoremen and strikers. A mob of strikers congregated at the Wilson line's docks and assaulted four of the new men with clubs. One of the men was cut under the eye by a collar hook. The police reserves were called out to prevent further trouble. A short time afterwards the longshoremen employed on the Thingvalla line's docks were beaten by strikers with clubs. A gang of Italians and Bohemians employed at the Sixth street docks were attacked and driven into a neighboring house, where one of their number drew a revolver and held the strikers at bay. For this the strikers caused his arrest, but he was discharged by a magistrate.

FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The presiding officer presented a communication from the secretary of the treasury in regard to the need of appropriations for a wharf and other buildings at Sitka, Alaska. Referred to the committee on appropriations.

On motion of Mr. Cameron, the bill to increase the naval establishment was taken up—yeas, 39; nays, 15.

Mr. Hale offered an amendment that if the speed of any of the vessels shall exceed twenty knots per hour the contractor shall receive $50,000 for every additional quarter knot, and if it shall be less than twenty knots per hour there shall be a deduction from the contractor of $50,000 for every quarter knot below twenty knots.

Mr. Van Wyck characterized the amendment as one for enabling the committee to "hedge," or the naval department to "hedge," or the contractors to "hedge" against the government and against the people.

At 2 o'clock the unfinished business—the Eads Tehuantepec bill—was taken up for consideration.

Mr. Morgan offered an amendment providing that nothing in the act shall be construed as a waiver of any right which the United States may now have under any treaty heretofore made with Mexico. Adopted.

Mr. Van Wyck offered an amendment that no stock shall be issued until fully paid for in money at par value, and no bonds issued until the full amount of stock has been subscribed for and 50 per cent of it paid for.

Mr. Vest modified Mr. Van Wyck's amendment so as to provide that no certificates of stock shall be issued until the same shall be fully paid for in money at its par value; that no bonds in excess of the amount of the capital paid in shall be authorized or issued until such capital shall amount to $10,000,000; and that no bonds shall be disposed of at less than their par value.

Pending action the bill went over until Thursday and the senate adjourned.

House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—In the house Mr. Hammond of Georgia submitted the conference report on the anti-Mormon bill and it was ordered printed and laid over until Thursday.

Mr. Thomas of Illinois, from the committee on naval affairs, submitted a report to increase the naval establishment. Committee of the whole.

The house then went into committee of the whole on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill. The various items of increase in compensation of consuls were ruled out on a point of order. Without completing consideration of the bill the committee rose.

Messrs. Cobb, Van Eaton and Payson were appointed conferees on the Northern Pacific land forfeiture bill.

The house then adjourned.

A CATTLE QUARANTINE

Iowa's Governor Proclaims Against Importation From Illinois.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Governor Larrabee to-day issued the following proclamation:

Whereas, Many of the prominent farmers and stock growers of the state more and more realizing the extreme danger of pleuro-pneumonia, request that additional restrictions be placed upon the importation of cattle from the state of Illinois; therefore, I, William Larrabee, governor of the state of Iowa, do now forbid the importation into this state from Illinois of any cattle except in such special cases as may be approved by the veterinary surgeon of this state and upon compliance with such regulation as he may prescribe; and I again appeal to all the citizens of the state, and especially to all state, county and municipal officers, to aid to the best of their abilities to ward off from our state the calamity of an invasion of that dreadful plague.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the state of Iowa.

Done at Des Moines, this 15th day of February, A. D., 1887. WILLIAM LARRABEE.

By the Governor:

FRANK D. JACKSON, Secretary of State.

Captain Todd Killed Himself.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The mystery attending the sudden death of Captain Todd seems about cleared. This evening a clerk in Hammer's drug store testified before the coroner's inquest that he sold Captain Todd two ounces of chloroform last Thursday. This supplies a link in the chain of evidence which has been diligently sought. Taken in connection with Mr. Todd's business affairs, which are shown now to have been in a straightened condition, the conclusion seems inevitable that he committed suicide. If so, it was the most deliberately planned in the record. The evidences of a struggle, the broken watch, chain, the scattered rubbers, the crushed hat, all show that every precaution had been taken to give the suspicion of murder.

LATER—The coroner's jury has just brought in a verdict of suicide.

A Young Girl's Suicide.

FORT DODGE, Ia., Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Clara Nordsteim, a young lady between sixteen and eighteen years old, committed suicide at Dayton, this county, at 3 o'clock this morning by taking arsenic. No cause is assigned for the act. The young lady was highly respected in the community where she resided.

Sudden Death.

BURLINGTON, Ia., Feb. 15.—C. P. Dehass, for four years past clerk of the district and circuit courts, and recently principal of the Sunnyside school, died suddenly of heart disease last night.

Those Iowa Lands.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Land Commissioner Sparks will recommend to the secretary of the interior at an early date the restoration to settlement entry under the public land laws the 26,000 acres of land formerly patented to the state of Iowa for the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad company and recently reconveyed by the state to the United States.

Served Them Right.

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—The News' special from Pekin, Ill., says: Gottlieb and Catherine Sanchi, charged with horrible cruelty to their ten-year-old son, were found guilty to-day and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary, the extreme penalty of the law. The child, whose feet and part of whose body were amputated, has been taken in charge by a local clergyman.

Kankakee's Mystery.

KANKAKEE, Ill., Feb. 15.—The coroner's jury in the case of Policeman Girard, who was found dead on the street, January 29, returned a verdict to-day that he came to his death by a pistol shot wound inflicted by persons unknown to the jury.

Greeley Nominated Signal Officer.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The president sent the nomination of Captain Adolphus W. Greeley, Fifth cavalry, to be chief signal officer, with the rank of brigadier general, to the senate to-day.

Nebraska and Iowa Weather.

For Nebraska and Iowa: Warmer, fair weather, followed by local rains.

COOK COUNTY CROOKEDNESS.

A Big Scandal Unearthed Concerning Chicago's Board of Commissioners.

HIGH RATES FOR STEAM FITTING

States Attorney Grinnell Believed to Have Enough Evidence to Furnish Joe Mackin a Few Choice Companions.

Chicago "Boodlers."

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—There is considerable anxiety and worry among some county board members, contractors and others interested in county affairs over the sudden disappearance of Nic Schneider, the boilermaker and steam fitter, whose bills for repairs at the county institution footed up over $90,000 in six months. His absence from the meeting of the county board yesterday, where he has been a constant attendant, evidently caused much uneasiness and subsequent inquiry set on foot disclosed the fact that he had gone away, leaving a note to his wife saying that he had left the city for a few days. The exposure of Schneider's methods for doing work for the county has undoubtedly something to do with his sudden vanishing from sight. Comment on the largeness of his bills has put Schneider in the light of a go-between, and it has been openly st