THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

SIXTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1887.—TWELVE PAGES. NUMBER 247.

ON THE BORDER LAND

The Entire French-German Frontier Carefully Inspected By a Correspondent.

NO UNUSUAL SIGNS OF WAR.

Reserves Out For Instruction and Troops Preventing the Escape of Deserters.

NO OTHER BELLICOSE MOVES.

Germans Consider a Conflict Inevitable If the Septennate is Defeated.

TALKS ON JACOBINI'S LETTERS.

Interviews With a Roman Prelate and an Italian Government Official.

LONDON'S LENTEN LITERATURE.

Rich Feasts Prepared For the Minds of Readers by Publishers to Take the Place of Evening Festivities.

Inspecting the Frontier.

[*Copyright 1887 by James Gordon Bennett.*]

METZ, Feb. 19.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—During the past five days I have made a tour—partly by rail, partly in hired carriages—of the 250 miles of Franco-German frontier, extending from Mulhausen to Onville, near Luxemburg. I have also paid flying visits to Neu Breisach, Strassburg, Metz, Treves and Koblentz. Judging of the situation strictly from a military point of view, I have seen nothing whatever to indicate an impending war. Everywhere I have seen reservists joining their colors to take part in the annual period of instruction, which this year is more important than heretofore owing to the necessity of their learning the use of the new repeating rifle. It is true that owing to warlike rumors this movement of reservists is attended with more popular excitement than usual, and that large consignments of new repeating rifles arrive almost daily at Metz, Strassburg, Neu Bresach and Mulhausen. At the same time, vast quantities of old rifles stored at these points are being returned to Berlin.

MANY DESERTERS.

I found that among the reservists from nearly all the towns near the frontier line there were many attempts made to desert, and at least 250 men have succeeded in reaching French territory, notably at Circy Avericourt, Pont-a-Mousson and Bufort. The great mass of the rural population of Alsace-Lorraine is still as French in feeling as the people of Burgundy or Normandy, and as the Alsace-Lorraine reservists are sent to join the garde-corps at Berlin and the fifth and sixth corps in Prussian-Poland, they try their best to desert. It is solely to prevent these desertions that villages and cross roads contiguous to the frontier were occupied by squads of German infantry and by patrols of the sixth Uhlans and ninth dragoons, four squadrons of these regiments being detached for that purpose from Mulhausen and Metz, while the fifth cavalry, chevaux-legers from Sarrbourg, watched the frontier at Avericourt.

NO REAL WAR PREPARATIONS.

With the exception of calling out the reserves for instruction, the movements of a few hundred infantry and cavalry to prevent deserters crossing the frontier, the arrival of large supplies of new repeating rifles and ammunition, and a few carloads of steel plates for the forts around Metz, I can safely say that neither men, stores, nor fortifications are being added to. And these four exceptions were decided upon long before the present war scare came into existence, and are regarded by military men here as merely routine incidents of the maintainance on an efficient footing of sixty battalions of infantry, fifty-five squadrons of cavalry, thirty-two batteries of field artillery, and twenty-eight companies of siege artillery, that Germany, as a guarantee of peace, feels obliged to keep on a war footing in Elsass-Lothringen, the German reichstand.

In reference to the report that Frenchmen were prevented from entering Germany, I can only say that I crossed the frontier three times during the past few days at Avericourt and Pagnysur-Moselle. Dozens of Frenchmen were on board the trains, and beyond the usual custom house examination, no passenger was questioned or interfered with by the German authorities.

A LIVELY INCIDENT.

On Thursday, as I was driving in an open victoria on a cold but fine sunny wintry day, along the road from Gravelotte to Chateau-de-Verkeville, I happened to notice quite a lively incident. About five hundred yards ahead of me I noticed a small donkey cart that seemed to be making very rapidly for the French frontier about half a mile distant. Looking behind me, I saw several horsemen galloping along at full speed. As they approached I saw a mounted police corporal of dragoons and three troopers evidently in chase of deserters. Telling my coachman to whip up his horses in order that we might see the fun, I watched the dragoons make a short cut across a field in the middle of which s[illegible] a huge cross in memory of the soldiers of the Third army corps, who fell in the battle of the 18th of August, 1870. The little donkey cart was nearly overtaken by the dragoons, when suddenly the driver of it sprang from his seat. At the same time a long-legged young fellow emerged from the body of the cart, where he had been concealed beneath a heap of cabbages, onions and potatoes, and both ran like deer toward the frontier on the road, now only a few yards distant. They reached the posts about two minutes before the dragoons, and were soon safely and comfortably seated before a stove in the wine shop of the little French village of Jonuille. The dragoons drew up their brown horses, captured the donkey and donkey cart, and rode slowly back toward the village of Gravellette.

HOW THE LINE IS MARKED.

It is curious to note that the frontier between Germany and France is more distinctly marked than that of any other two countries. The frontier line is so arranged that it crosses every road at right angles. On the German side is a large post, twelve feet high, painted like a barber pole—red, black and white—with a cross piece at the top, with the word, in black letters on a white ground, "Grenzor" (boundary), with an exclamation mark. Diagonally opposite is a cast iron post, twelve feet high, whereon is painted in gray, on an iron crosspiece, the word, "Frontiere." These posts are only placed on roads and railways. The line is indicated "across country" by stone blocks projecting about a foot above the ground at intervals of fifty yards. On the French side of the block is cut with a chisel the letter "F," on the German side is the letter "D" for "Deutschland."

A COLONEL'S OPINION.

Upon returning to Metz I met at dinner a colonel of artillery who had greatly distinguished himself at Sedan and Paris. I asked what he thought of the fortifications the French had constructed for the defense of the frontiere.

He said: "They are admirably chosen, and when they receive their armor of steel plate, will be the most perfect system of fortifications that could have been devised. Verdun, Toul, Epinal, Belfort are each the center of four systems that altogether number not less than seventy-five detached forts and batteries. The spaces between Verdun and Toul, and between Epinal and Belfort are utterly impregnable, every square foot of the soil being commanded and enfiladed by artillery fire that no troops could withstand. No modern general would think of sacrificing his troops by attacking them."

I asked: "Then, in the event of war, the German armies would have to be directed north of Verdun, between Verdun and the Belgian frontier, or else between Toul and Epinal."

The colonel replied: "Certainly; any other course would be ten-fold greater madness than were the Russian attacks upon Plevna."

I then said: "It is well known to all military men that the French have, since 1870, constructed no new fortifications in the long interval of thirty-eight kilometres that extend from Verdun to the Belgian frontier. How do you account for that fact?"

The colonel replied: "It is believed that in the event of hostilities France will concentrate nearly all her available forces along this interval, where her railway system enables her to mobilize her armies quicker than at any other point of her frontier and make a lightning like blow through Luxemburg and Belgium upon Treves and the valley of the Moselle, in the hope of reaching Koblentz."

I said: "Oh! But the French accuse you of intending to violate Belgium neutrality, and expect to see the German army come swarming from Cologne straight across Belgium, thereby turning all their magnificent defenses of the Meuse and the Vosges."

The colonel replied, evasively: "I'm afraid we are getting to talk politics, which is something I know nothing about."

I asked: "When the 'inevitable' war breaks out, where do you think the first great dicisive battle will be fought?"

The colonel said: "In the department of the Ardennes, not far from Mezieres."

ELECTION DEFEAT MEANS WAR.

And here our conversation ended. I may add that the feeling in official and military circles here and in Strassberg is that if the government is defeated in the coming elections, war between France and Germany will be almost inevitable.

THE JACOBINI LETTERS.

Their Meaning and Effect Discussed by a Roman Prelate.

[*Copyright 1887 by James Gordon Bennett.*]

ROME, Feb. 19.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The Jacobini letters have caused fully as much excitement in Italy this week as the news from Massawah, exciting though that is, or the ministerial crisis. The ministerialists at first affected to treat these sensational documents with distain, but certain passages in the letters made such point, reference to the relations of the vatican and quirinal that they verysoon grew alarmed and rather late in the day awoke to the fact that the letters might be worth discussing. What induced the vatican to issue these letters? What did they mean? What effect will they have? These questions are now exercising all thinking politicians in Europe and doubtless many more in America. The letters were, so to speak, sprung upon the world outside the innermost vatican circles. No one knew anything about them here until they were published, and one at least—the earliest, probably—was not meant for publication. The pope did not even discuss them with his most trusted counsellors This fact partly explains the almost unanimous dissatisfaction with which they have been read in the sacred college. For once liberal and ultramontane cardinals are of the same opinion. Five, or almost perhaps, six persons could tell the whole story of the letters, and from evident reasons of the state they are prevented from telling all there is to tell. One is the holy father, without whose absolute approval the etters could not have been issued. Another, is the Baron Von Schloezer, Prussian minister plenipotentiary at the vatican, but for whom they would hardly have been written. The third is Cardinal Jacobini who signed them. The fourth is Bismarck, and one of the two others is a distinguished prelate, with whom I have just had a long and most interesting talk at the vatican.

TALK WITH A PRELATE.

I began the conversation by mentioning that I had just arrived from Berlin.

"Ah, indeed," said the prelate, "Berlin is a political center nowadays."

"People were beginning to discuss those remarkable letters of Cardinal Jacobini when I left," said I.

"We hope they will bear good fruit," replied the prelate. "They were not in any way an attack on the center party, which has done the church such great service in the past during the kutterkampf. But we have good reason to hope that the time of the kutterkampf is now over. Within three or four weeks proposals will be laid before the Prussian landtag practically abolishing all that remains of the May laws and restoring to the church nearly all its essential liberties."

"Will the monastic orders get the benefit of the new management?" said I.

"Three catagories of monastic orders will," replied the prelate. "First, all who may be called contemplative orders; second, all those which specially devote themselves to the training of candidates for the priesthood; third, all charitable orders."

"I may assume of course," said I, "that Bismarck took the initiative in the negotiations which preceded the issue of the letters?"

"Well, yes; but quite unafficially," said the prelate. "After some hesitation Bismarck said something like this: 'If the pope will speak the word now in favor of the septennate, he will be helping to keep the peace,' and with purely peaceful views the holy father thought it right to speak. Von Moltke and Bismarck had made it clear that the rejection of the septennate meant war. Why should it be said that the pope attacked the center when he merely expressed his earnest wish that the center would vote the septennate? We must make the concession now. Then, you know, especially in a protestant country, it is always a good thing to have a friend."

"True," said I, "but in making one friend is there not danger of losing the friendship of France?"

"Why should France object, seeing that she wishes to have peace and that the letters may secure peace?"

"Yet I notice that Bishop Koppe has just been supporting a defender of the triennium," I continued.

"Ah, yes, yes; very clever of him, very," said the prelate, without particularly explaining his meaning. Then, resuming the thread of his discussion, he added: "The vatican had serious reason to believe its intervention would improve the position of the holy see, especially in its relations with Italy."

"That's the great point," I remarked.

"Every one looks beyond the present moment."

"What will be the estimated result of these wonderfully clever letters? In a word, do you foresee or hope for anything like a return to the old state of things in Rome in the future?"

But here I found I was on delicate ground. The prelate, who is an accomplished diplomat, at once grew vague.

"I foresee no near concrete result of the kind you mean," said he.

"Did you not read that article in the Cologne Gazette the other day referring to a possible amelioration of the position of the holy see, and pointing out that there could be no thought of an armed intervention, or even of ordinary diplomatic action in behalf of the vatican? Then, remember the papal arbitration in the dispute about the Carolines."

"Yes."

I continued: "But what meaning save one can be attached to this amelioration?"

"As one cannot foretell all eventualities," replied the prelate. "Wars, for instance, or European congresses, at which a friendly word might be uttered tending to peacefully bring about a better understanding with Italy. The Roman question must always be of deep importance, and it is certain that the present state of things is intolerable."

A MINISTERIAL OPINION.

On leaving the vatican I drove to the ministry of foreign affairs, hoping to have a chat with the Count di Robilant. He was up to his eyes in business, so I fell back on the Count di Collibiana, his private secretary, whose views may be fairly accepted as a reflection of the minister's.

"What does the Italian government think of the Jacobini letters?" said I.

"For some reasons," said the Count, "there is reason to be glad they were written. The fact that the pope has been able to make so important a manifestation proves that he is perfectly free, and since the law of guarantees was passed it has always been the policy of the Italian government not to interfere in the pope's relations with foreign powers. Speaking unofficially, I don't mind saying that we do not regret the issue of the letters, for they will weaken the German centre and the centre is hostile to us."

"What do you take to be the real meaning of the passage with regard to a possible amelioration of the relations with Italy," I asked, "which most people suppose refers to a restoration of the temporal power?"

"The significance of the passage has been much toned down by the explanations of the vatican's organs," replied the count. "Our relations with Prussia are of such a nature as absolutely to preclude the idea of our attaching this meaning to it, though some party organs have done so. I am rather inclined to think myself the passage referred to is a possible restoration of ecclesiastical property, but, as you know, with the exception of a few institutions like the American college, the government regards all such matters as being purely of a domestic character, and will allow of no foreign interference."

"Is there no prospect of Italy voluntarily ameliorating the position of the vatican or changing?"

"If you prefer the phase I see none," replied the count. "No one has any particular interest in changing things at present."

"And will Italy make no protest or counter manifestation in answer to the letters?"

"None, whatever;" said the Count di Collibiani.

THE AMERICAN CARDINALS.

Although Cardinals Gibbons and Tashereau have been here a week, many matters supposed to have occasioned their journey have hardly been discussed. Yet Cardinal Gibbons had a long interview with Cardinal Simeoni and Archbishop Jacobini at the propaganda yesterday. Nothing definite is known as to what took place but it is ascertained not only that nothing has yet taken place in regard to the American Knights of Labor, but that no decision may be expected for at least some weeks, this question, with several others, having been held over until the opportunity has occurred to fully ascertain the views of Cardinal Gibbons.

Father McGlynn's case excites great interest here, and even his defiance has not lost him the personal sympathy of his Roman friends. I have discussed his case with many ecclesiasts here and there is only one opinion as to the mistake that has been made. It is universally thought in Rome that the matters for which he has been removed from his charge went beyond the limits of social or political economy, and his coming is confidently expected. If he comes he will have a fair hearing. Nearly all the ecclesiastical authorities are quite disposed to treat him not only with justice but with indulgent kindness.

A LITERARY FEAST

Prepared For English Readers During the Lenten Season.

[*Copyright 1887 by James Gordon Bennett.*]

LONDON, Feb. 19.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—On the eve of the forty days of Lenten fast the London publishers, as usual, prepare a literary feast for their readers, as the church debars from evening joys many votaries of the opera, of cards and soirees. The coming month is therefore sure to bring a wealth of new publications. Ash Wednesday will see the publication by Mr. Unwin, who is the publisher of English editions of the Century and St. Nicholas, of De Lavely's "The Balkan Peninsula," a book bringing its events down to date. Advance sheets furnished to your correspondent show a beautifully printed volume in picturesque style, yet accurate, bristling with facts, statistics and incidents. The introduction is by Mr. Gladstone, who, in the course of it, remarks:

"The well-being, tranquility and liberty of the Balkans have now come to be of more critical importance than ever to the interests of Europe. It is, therefore, most material that the public mind of the various countries should be impartially and thoroughly informed."

TWO ROYAL LIVES.

The same publisher issues, on March 1, Dorothea Roberts' "Two Royal Lives." These are the lives of the crown prince and Queen Victoria's daughter, the future empress of Germany. The advance sheets of this volume evidence graphic gleanings from Berlin life, not only in royal circles, but of the German masses. It is filled with new incidents and fresh views of society in the Prussian capital.

THE COMING WAR.

Messrs. Ward & Downey announce today "The Coming Franco-German War," by that well known German, Colonel Koettschaw, and translated and edited by Mr. John Hill, the English military writer. It is a significant work, one to delight the heart of the Russian bear and the Wall street or the produce exchange bulls. It might be profitably read besides Mr. Heard's papers in the coming March Harper on "The Russia of To-day," or with Sir Charles Dilke's article on the same subject in the coming number of the Fortnightly Review, wherein also the Marquis of Lorne has a short conciliating paper about the Canadian fisheries.

ONLY A STORY.

By the way, there has been a hearty laugh here at the sensational paragraph recently sent to a New York newspaper by cable hence, to the effect that the marquis is to be the respondent in a divorce suit brought by the Princess Louise. Perhaps the report was started by Brother Colin Campbell, who relies on an old maxim about misery, love and company.

A EULOGY TO LEE.

A warlike monogram on General Lee by Lord Wolsely is in type for the March Macmillan's Magazine. The Egyptian hero eulogizes his Virginia conferee to the music, doubtless, of "Robert, Toi que j'Aime," whice suggests a reference to Mr. Beatty Kingston's two volumes issued yesterday on "Music and Manners, with Delightful Personal Reminiscences." He is the foreign editor of the Daily Telegraph, plays on fine instruments, is a composer, librettist on dinner table art and literary wise, an admirable christian, as New Yorkers will find when he visits them this coming summer.

ROBERT BROWNING'S POEMS.

Robert Browning, for his new poems, received some hard kicks from critics who demand a glossary. For instance, the Anthenæum this afternoon remarks that Mr. Browning's friends have of late rendered it extremely difficult for calm criticism that respects itself and art to deal with him, and of course there are these who will angrily reply that it is because he uses poetic art to express his own idiosyncracy and because he tramples under foot those laws of poetic art which Homer bows to as reverently as Sophocles or Dante that his appeal to them is so strong. Mr. Browning this morning got nettled and thus wrote to a correspondent touching an ill-natured criticism in the Birmingham Mail a correspondent had enclosed:

"I am sure you mean very kindly, but I have had too long an experience of the inability of the human race to do other than cackle when benevolent and hiss when malicious, and no amount of goose criticism shall make me lift a heel against what waddles behind it."

This seems to prove that the author of the "Ring and Book" can also write vigorous prose.

All Americans doubtless know about Sir Wilfred Lawson, M. P. He offsets his vigorous prose in the house of commons last night with verse in this morning's Laverpool Post on the recent mixtures of parties in the division lobbies. It begins thus:

How strangely are parties at present allied;
No skill the anamolies can smother,
When the liberal-unionists sit on one side
And steadily vote on the other.

A PORTRAIT OF FRANCES.

The Court Society Review, a London weekly, announces that its next week's issue will contain an especially prepared portrait of the young and beautiful wife of the president of the United States. This portrait of the head of American society will be the first of a series of portraits of trans-Atlantic celebrities. Some wag suggests that on this announcement the editor of the Court Review must look out for his trans-Atlantic mail bringing applications for a place in his gallery.

A QUEEN AUTHORESS.

"I give you on good authority, and am assured that it is an authentic anecdote, something about the head of Italian society. It is well known that Queen Margaret is an authoress. She was rallied at a recent court ball by the French ambassador about having written a novel which was after long delay to be published in London. She listened as he gallantly expressed regret at the delay. Then said the queen: "Believe me your regret would have been greater if it had appeared." Next she went to tell the diplomat: "Long ago I sent a story in manuscript to a Roman periodical under an assumed name. It was soon returned curtly marked "rejected." Since then I shall remain satisfied with a real crown and not strive after imaginary laurels."

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

To-day, through the firm of Sonnenschein & Co., that Dr. Crozier, who wrote "Civilization and Progress," has published a book entitled, "Lord Randolph Churchill, a Study of English Democracy." The author is an anti-bourbon, a disbeliever in the rack and thumb screw of the Salisbury policy. The book comes apropos to a current hoax some London correspondents have originated to the effect that Lord Churchill is to return to the cabinet as Indian secretary, vice Lord Cross.

SOCIALISTIC LITERATURE.

The socialist invokes literature with Karl Marx's book on "Capital," translated by Mr. Aveling, who, with his wife, has prepared a paper for the March number of the Contemporary Review on the same subject.

OTHER INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS.

Murray's Magazine, No. 3, comes up on library tables on Shrove Tuesday with more unpublished scraps from Lord Byron. A narrative, "Lost in the Backwoods," by ex-Police Commissioner Sir Edmund Henderson, and a jolly essay by Grant Allenon, "The Joy of Living."

Scotchmen may be glad to know that the firm of Macmillan & Co. have in the press a memoir, the poems and letters of that delightful divine of Irvine, Dr. William B. Robertson, and everybody is glad to hear that the same house will in a few days bring out, "Tom Brown."

Bishop Potter, whose echoes yet linger in Lambeth chapel, doubtless arrived to-day, bringing with him an early copy of two volumes from the long mines of history most valuable to church men, being sketches of the English church and its bishops through the eighteenth century. Dr. A. E. MacDonald, who is now enjoying London, will of course, take home a new anonymous book entitled "The Healing Art, or Chapters Upon Medicine, Diseases, Remedies and Physicians." It is an historical biography and descriptive, being an attempt to popularize the history of the healing art. It particularly abounds with anecdotes of court physicians, quacks, mesmerists, etc.

Lawyers are informed that a new volume on the law about betting, from a barrister at Canfield, has just been issued. Many American barristers doubtless may say that the law about betting exists with them only in a prohibitory sense.

Chas Reade's memoirs will appear on March 1, a book for both the cloister and the hearth, no doubt.

Among new novels is "In the Rice Fields," by the matchless Colombi, translated by Mr. Astor Willmott, and issued by Chapman & Hall; also a second edition within a fortnight only after the first one of Joseph Hatton's "Old House at Sandwich," while the day on which it was published he sat down to begin a new serial novel called "The Great World" for an American newspaper.

Mr. Lawrence Oliphant is quitting fiction for the present. He will publish on Monday, through the Blackwoods, "Haina, or Life in Modern Palestine." On the same day the same publishers issue "The Life of Agnes Strickland," by her sister. "Our Own Pompeii," a satirical story in two volumes, from the same press, with some of its characters New Yorkers, is largely attributed to Mr. Louis J. Jennings.

A book much demanded for the libraries soon issues from the Cassell press. It is entitled "Celebrities of the Age," being a dictionary of the men and women of this century. It contains contributions by eminent authorities and is edited by Dr. Lloyd C. Sanders, an Oxford scholar. It will undoubtedly take the place of "Men of the Time," published by Rutledge, a volume mercilessly reviewed here for its omissions and its pufferies of those in whom the editor is evidently interested. To-day's Spectator instances nineteen glaring omissions, and refers to the pages as presenting "an instructive study of the grotesque forms which self-assertion and vanity may assume," and cites examples which, in a compendium of autobiographical sketches, jar upon the sensibilities of even the least fastidious readers.

But even authoritative reviews make slips. For instance, this week's Academy, in a long notice of "She Stoops to Conquer," now running with a success that would warm the cockles of Lester Wallack's heart, says that "Miss Kate Vaughan played Lydia Languish to Lionel Brough's Tony Lumpkin, which was a highly colored performance," quite so in such a connection.

GERMAN POLITICS.

A Momentary Lull in the Great Electoral Conflict.

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—There is a pause in the intensity of the electoral conflict pending Monday's polling. Committees everywhere continue active, but there is a momentary lull in public agitation. There is also a significant subsidence in war rumors. This the opposition say is because the government no longer considers such ailment necessary to excite electorates. Though official circles are sure of a victory, they are much less confident that their majority will be large. Their most sanguine estimates increase the number of conservative from 78 to 86, and national liberals from 50 to 60, and reduces the Freisinnigen from 67 to 50, leaving other sections about the same as before. The septennate majority is dependent upon a split in the centre party, in which it is calculated there are sixty-nine triennists against thirty septennists. If this estimate is realized and the government fails to obtain a submissive majority for all its purposes the new reichstag will vote for the military bill, but will be equally ready, as was the last reichstag, to resist Bismarck's project for securing permanent supplies. The socialists hope to return three candidates, an increase of ten over their last number in the last reichstag. The progressists are the only party with moderate expectations. They will be gratified if they retain their former force. The results of the elections will be known defiitely Tuesday night. It is reported that Prince Bismarck desires to convoke the reichstag for February 28, and will demand the urgency of the military bill.

The ministerial order issued to-day relative to the calling out of the army recruits for 1887 and 1888 provides that men who receive permission to discontinue active service and enter the reserves will be dismissed at the latest on September 30, while between the 1st and 5th of November new infantry recruits will enter the ranks for the arms drill.

Conference of the railway military commission on mobilization has been held at Weisbaden, which was attended by delegates from all the German railways and numerous army afficers. Exhaustive aarangements for a scheme of transit were completed. Absolute secrecy is maintained regarding the plans formed

Russia's Eyes on the Rhine.

[*Copyright 1887 by James Gordon Bennett.*]

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—The Russian organ, Le Nord, printed here, published this morning an article on the general situation, alleging that the insurmountable national aversion and recollection of the Berlin treaty forbids any lasting and serious misunderstanding between Russia and Germany. Neither will Russia engage in war against Austria or England. For the present the Bulgarian question recedes in the background and the possibility of a Franco-German war becomes the paramount question. Russia wishes to remain free in order that, if a Franco-German war should break out, to prevent Germany from annihilating France, and upsetting the European equilibrium. Thus, without concluding any alliance with France, Russia will arrange so that the events of 1870 shall not recur. This time Germany will be obliged to guard her eastern frontier with troops and will not be allowed to-destroy France. Russia's eyes are fixed on the Rhine. This article, and the last sentiment, creates a great sensation.

Voted the Extra Credit.

PESTH, Feb. 18.—The lower house of the Hungarian diet, by a unanimous vote, to-day passed the extra credit of $3,110,000 for the equipment of the Hungarian landwehr.

French Troops Recalled.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—All the French troops have been recalled from Madagascar except four companies which are to remain at Diego Suarez.

Horrible Murder in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 19.—A horrible murder was committed on Mount Adams, this city, between 9 and 10 o'clock to-night. It was that of Mrs. Matilda Warren, by Edward Jordan, a drunken desperado. Mrs. Warren's daughter was trundling her infant daughter in a baby wagon on the sidewalk in front of the house. Jordan came along, reeling drunk, and upset the baby wagon in the gutter, and pushed the terrified little girl into the street. Mrs. Warren rushed out in defence of her babe, protesting as she went against Jordan's brutality. The villain waited till she got within a few feet of him and then shot her through the lungs. She is not dead, but the wound is mortal. Jordon escaped. If found in Mount Adams to-night he will never see daylight.

Settled the Suit.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The suit of the Kansas & Texas income script holders against the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad was settled to-day by the agreement of the company to buy the script. The terms are 60 per cent in Kansas & Texas 5 per cent bonds and 40 per cent in Galveston, Harrisburg & Houston bonds for the face of the script, and $300,000 to be distributed among the coupon holders as interest. By private arrangement Jay Gould agrees to buy $500,000 of Galveston, Harrisburg & Houston bonds at 80, making the script net about 90½.

A Big Burlington Victory.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 19.—The suit of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad company against the stockholders of the Kansas rolling mill company was decided to-day by Judge Heisley in the common pleas court. The suit involved $225,000. The main issue was a test of individual liability of the stockholders, D. P. Eels, W. H. Harris, Ira Harris, T. P. Handy and John Hay, and Samuel Mather, executors of the estate of Amasa Stone. The decision was a complete victory for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and other creditors who entered suit on cross petitions.

Working Over Rates.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The sub-committee appointed at the convention of railroad men on Friday met to-day in Commissioner Fink's office. The work of this committee is "to formulate and commend such amended rules and regulations as may be found requisite to secure a uniform application of the law to the subjects referred to them respectively." The report of the committee will be submitted to the joint committee as soon as possible.

A Police Justice Reported Shot.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—A rumor reached this city late to-night that Police Justice Murray had been shot in Brooklyn. The rumor has not been verified.

"THERE'S MILLIONS IN IT."

Reckless Raid on the Nebraska State Treasury.

SOME UNHOLY COMBINATIONS.

Extravagant Appropriation Bills Tied to the Tail of the Railroad Kite—Some Private Measures.

Merciless Taxation.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 19.—The legislature of 1885 was generally regarded as reckless, wasteful and extravagant. They piled up a mountain of taxes upon the people, without actually knowing or caring where the money was to come from. But I fear that the taxpayers will fare much worse at the hands of the present legislature. The private claims, enormous estimates for running state institutions, projected normal schools, asylums, homes for every class of mendicants, industrial schools, new penitentiaries, pleuro-pneumonia and health boards, with their hordes of employes, officials and tax-eaters, leaving out the increase in district judges, stenographers, etc., will run up a tax-bill of over $4,000,000 within the next two years. It is simply monstrous to contemplate. With nine-tenths of the farms of this state mortgaged for nearly what they are worth, with state railway, county precinct and city mortgages plastered on top of the private mortgages, the legislature, heedless of the situation, is grinding out tax bills that must prove ruinous. Governor Thayer himself has become alarmed over this reckless plunging into debt and burdensome taxation. Two days ago he went before the judiciary committee of the house to protest against the creation of needless district judges He called attention to the fact that Judges Broady and Morris both assured him that they wanted no additional judges in their districts. The fact that Judge Hamer has been hanging around the state capitol almost the entire session indicates that he is not overcrowded with work, and there is no need of another judge in his district. The mania for new state institutions, which our limited wealth and the condition of the producers do not warrant, seems to have seized the representatives from every town and village. These members are bent only on getting what they can out of the general grab-bag. In their anxiety to come home with a new state institution in their grip-sacks they forget everything else and stand ready to barter their votes for all kinds of jobs, claims and swindles. The railroad lobby, which is only repeating its well-known tactics, has taken all these conflicting projects and interests under its paternal wing, and with this combination will be in position to defeat all railway legislation and pull through all the steals which its allies, the jobbers, have undertaken. It would be utterly out of question to present the people of Nebraska with a full inventory of all the schemes to raid and bankrupt the treasury. My limited space enables me only to call attention to a few of the monstrosities.

The general appropriation bill provides for a levy of $1,285,772. This is simply the expense bill for two years for existing state institutions. Then there is a salary appropriation bill of $357,096; the legislative appropriation of $95,000, the state house tax, will swell the aggregate to $2,000,000. On top of these necessary appropriations come various bills which will more than double that amount. Among these are a 3-mill tax for penitentiary construction. The grand assessment roll for 1886 was $143,982,570. Assuming the increase for 1887 and 1888 to be in the same ratio as 1885 and 1886, which was 15 per cent, this little 3-mill joker would yield a revenue of over $1,000,000. Of this amount $100,000 is asked for Boss Stout's projected Louisville or Weeping Water pen. I must not omit to mention that a slight change in the plans of the new capitol, suggested by the architect in the interest of the contractor, will add a fraction of over $50,000 to the burden of the taxpayers. Then comes the blind asylum at Nebraska City, with a requisition for a $50,000 wing. The proposed incurable insane asylum at Hastings, $75,000; idiot hospital, Beatrice, $80,000; enlarging and completing the Norfolk insane asylum, $95,000; soldiers' home, Grand Island, $30,000; dependent children's home, Omaha or elsewhere, $25,000; Grant memorial hall, Lincoln, $30,000; industrial school, Lincoln, $50,000; medical college, Lincoln, $35,000, and about half a million dollars' worth of normal schools scattered in every section of the state. Now, suppose all or even a small fraction of all these new institutions should be established, how is Nebraska to maintain them on her limited revenue, and the outrageously extravagant appropriations asked for existing concerns? Take for instance the insane hospital at Lincoln, which had a surplus to its credit November 30, 1886, of nearly $70,000, and which will transfer fully one-third of its inmates to Norfolk this spring, and if the Hastings asylum is erected will part with perhaps one-fifth more of its inmates. And yet the appropriation bill calls for a larger amount to run the institution for the next two years than the last two. Among the extravagancies is a proposed barn to cost $12,000, for which $2,500 would be ample: paints and oils, $2,000; two years ago $1,000 was squandered on paints; furniture and bedding, $4,000; two years ago the same amount was appropriated, and in view of the coming exodus a requisition for additional furniture is preposterous. Music and musical instruments, $1,600. We know the insane appreciate music, but the state, the past ten years, has paid out enough to supply every lunatic in the hospital with a snare drum, or even a piano. The bill for fuel and lights is estimatated at $20,000 for two years. The last legislature appropiated $17,000 for two years, and that included an electric light plant complete. This reminds us that the home for feeble-minded people at Beatrice modestly asks for a $3,500 electric light plant and a $500 scale. [The best scales can be bought for $85.] It will take feeble-minded people to countenance such wastefulness. The reform school at Kearney wants only $108,000 for the next two years, independent of all improvements. Compared with the running expenses of other institutions and the appropriations of 1885, the bill of particulars is terribly inflated. A $13,800 appropriation is asked for wages of employes. What employes does the reform school need? The boys and girls do most of the hard work outdoors and indoors, and they are all in a condition to take care of themselves. Then we have living expenses, estimated at $29,240 for two years, which is about double what they can be fed for in any respectable common-place boarding house. Besides that, the reform school pays for a farmer, raises its own vegetables, poultry, and ought to produce enough bread, meat and milk for everybody on the farm. Passing from this to the Peru normal school, we find what it costs to instruct "school marms" how to teach. The normal school comes to the front with increased estimates for everything. For the past three years they got along comfortably on $1,000 a year for light and fuel; now they want $2,250 a year. The last legislature gave them $1,300 for apparatus and laboratory, and $700 for furniture; now they want $1,400 for furniture and $1,500 for laboratory apparatus. The salaries for principals and teachers the past two years were $22,000; now they want $26,500 for the next two years. If all the normal schools projected are to be run on the inflation plan, the raising of home-made teachers will become an expensive luxury.

Now a glance at a few private bills: The Simmons family wants relief for $1,417.50; Charles A. Johnson, $4,237; Robert W. Furnas, $5,000; Pat O. Hawes, $4,520; Maggie Primble, $2,000; E. R. Hoar, $1,824, etc., etc.

The inflation of the salary list in the state house is on a par with all this reckless raiding of the taxpayers. I cannot now go into detail, but must content myself by simply calling a halt, and admonishing the legislature that the people of Nebraska are not all Jay Goulds and Vanderbilts. They have endured patiently the merciless taxation by public carriers on their products, and they may have to continue to endure these impositions. But they are not in condition to put second and third mortgages on their homes to meet the heavy tax levy which the present legislature is trying to impose upon them. E. ROSEWATER.

Working Over the Charter.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special to the BEE.]—The judiciary committee examined into the provisions of the charter at some length last evening, but refused to definitely decide upon any of the sections. The opponents to the charter are represented in the committee by Messrs. Agee and Bowman. Mr. Agee is "loaded for bear" with legal authorities and was able to find an opposing or unfavorable reference to any section the committee were anxious to find last evening before the other members could find the section itself in the printed bill. In fact a member of the committee intimated that Mr. Agee had evidently prepared himself to assume in the house the same attitude toward the charter which Mr. Colby did in the senate. Another meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday evening next, and it is hoped that at that time some definite action may be taken.

Almost before the speaker had announced the vote on the Vandemark bill for a recount of the vote on the legislative constitutional amendment this morning telegrams were flashing to county clerks of counties adjacent to this one and to others farther away the circulars were immediately mailed calling on county clerks to send in the ballot boxes and poll books of last November as soon as possible. The recount of the vote will commence on Monday at the secretary of state's office, and nearly every committee clerk of both houses will be employed during that day and Tuesday in assisting the board in recanvassing. It is the general impression that an abundance of votes will be found to not have been returned to swell the recorded vote to more than the constitutional majority. Still, this impression may be one cunningly manufactured by those who desire to see some needed legislation "die abornin'," and think to be able to produce procrastination by the ignis fatus of twenty days more session after the present forty days are gone.

A SIXTY DAY SESSION.

The Legislature Prolongs Its Life Twenty Days.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 19—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The attendance in the house was unexpectedly large this morning as it was understood that little was to be done. Mr. Vandemark's bill, passed by the senate, was passed under suspension of rules, 75 to 4. It was opposed by Mr. Watson, who alleged that the people elected this legislature for forty days and not for sixty. The expense to the state would be large for a recount and if it should demonstrate that the amendment carried, the twenty days additional session would cost more money than it would be worth.

Mr. Keiper said the people favored the recount because they had honestly voted in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Agee said that in Hamilton county the count was 200 votes short of the ballots cast and in a number of counties no returns of the vote had been made at all, while the republican tickets had the words, "For the amendment" printed on them. The bill provides that the county clerks are required to forward to the secretary of state before March 1 all the ballots and poll books returned to them by the judges of election on November 2, 1886. The secretary, auditor, two senators and three representatives are constituted as a board to recount the votes and transmit their report to the former before March 10.

The house adjourned until Wednesday morning.

Mr. Russell offered to introduce a memorial and resolution for the appointment of a commissioner from Nebraska under the interstate commerce bill, but it was too late.

Let Veenker Respond.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Feb. 18.—To the Editor of the BEE: The Grand Island Independent received a letter from H. O. Veenker a few days since, in regard to his leaving his wife and family, and stated that if any one wished to correspond with him could do so through the Omaha BEE. His wife is not able to do any work, and has no means of providing for herself and children, five in number, the oldest ten, the eldest two years old. Mrs. Veenker desires to sell her lot and house and go to her relatives in Canada. It will be the best thing possible for her to do. If Mr. Venker will consent to sign the deed that will fix the matter up. At present the family is supported by the county. Mr. Veenker will please reply, either through the BEE or by letter, or Grand Island Independent. MONROE TAYLOR,
Chairman Committee on Paupers, Hall County Board of Supervisors.

Only One Attempted Burglary.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—This city has been reported overrun with thieves and thugs, but such is not the case. There was an attempted burglary Thursday night at the residence of S. S. Rickly, but that is the only one that has occurred recently, and nothing was secured. Mr. Rickley had received about $600 after banking hours, and was discovered in his office by some tramps counting it. When he reached home the fellows had preceded him, with the evident intention of committing a robbery during the night. They were frightened away, however, and no clue has been obtained to their identity. The only damage done was in frightened Mrs. Rickley.

An Eloping Couple Arrested.

SYRACUSE, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Ed Speratt, a tin peddler of Auburn, ran away from that place with the wife of John Ham to get even with him on an old score. The couple arrived here from Nebraska City and were arrested to-day on the charge of adultery on a warrant sworn out by the woman's husband. They had a preliminary examination this evening and the case was continued.

Arrested For Forgery.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Fred Norseman was arrested this morning by Deputy Sheriff Huber six miles north of Syracuse for forging a note of $350 on Fred L. New. The note was purchased by the Farmers bank of this city about a week ago. He admits the forgery.

Wahoo's Electric Light.

WAHOO, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special to the BEE.]—The dynamo for the electric light has arrived, and the fixtures are now in nearly all the stores and on the lamp posts. The light is to be put in operation Monday night.

Nebraska and Iowa Weather.

For Nebraska and Iowa: Fair weather, followed by local snows, higher temperature.

Prosecuting Mormons in Wyoming.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The first suit ever instituted against polygamous Mormons in this territory began yesterday at Evanston by United States Attorney Campbell, George H. Patterson and George Taylor, one with three, the other with two wives. They were bound over to answer at the April term of court. The arrest causes great excitement among the Mormons, of whom large number have drifted into Western Wyoming because of prosecution in Idaho, Utah and Nevada. Other suits will rapidly follow.

A Chinaman Suicides.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Lee Lang, a Chinaman, bound from Milwaukee to San Francisco, was found dead, hanging by the neck in a ward at the county hospital to-day. He arrived here yesterday on the train. Near here he attacked a fellow passenger with a dirk and slashed through his derby hat, and afterwards tore up $150 in greenbacks. He was probably demented. He will be buried here.

Bold Robbery by Tramps.

CEDAR BLUFFS, Neb., Feb. 19.—Last evening C. F. Walker, living two miles from here, was attacked by two tramps and robbed of $800. Walker was overpowered by the robbers, thrown to the ground and his hands and feet firmly tied. The robbers are supposed to have taken the train for Grand Island. They are Germans, one forty [illegible] the other about twenty eight years of [illegible] Mr. Walker offers a reward of $100 for [illegible] capture.