THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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A BRUTAL MURDERER HUNG.

Charles Bellows Expiates His Crime at Charles City.

SUPPORTED TO THE GALLOWS.

The Miserable Wretch's Bravado Forsakes Him at the Last Moment and He Dies Vainly Pleading For Mercy.

An Iowa Hanging.

CHARLES CITY, Ia., Dec. 16.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—To-day will long be remembered as an eventful one for Charles City. Not only were the streets thronged, but the thoughts of many of the people of Iowa were upon the city where, for the first time in twenty-two years, was to be presented the repellant spectacle of a man hanged, not for vengeance, but according to ordered law. There was no thought of reprieve or commutation, no words of sympathy or pity, but a sentiment universal that Bellows must hang. All preparations for the hanging were completed this morning, and there was nothing to do but to await the hour. In the early morning people from the surrounding country began to pour into town. At 8 o'clock around the jail all was excitement. A multitude had gathered thinking they would be afforded an opportunity to witness the execution, but they were not gratified. A few reporters, the sheriffs of the different counties of the state and those authorized by law were the only witnesses present inside the inclosure. At 9 o'clock six chosen men from company F, I. N. G., went on duty, keeping march around the yard in which the gallows was erected.

Up to 9 o'clock last night Bellows manifested the same defiant disposition as at Anamosa, when he said to the warden:

"See that I am hung early so that I will reach hell in time for breakfast."

Shortly after 9 o'clock last night the sheriff entered his cell with a letter from his sister, Mrs. Waterman. The letter was handed to Bellows and Sheriff Clark took occasion to admonish him to prepare for eternity as he was to be surely hanged in the morning. Bellows looked up into his face and said:

"I will laugh at you on the gallows."

The sheriff then left the cell. Soon he heard moans from Bellows who was weeping bitterly over the last written words of his devoted sister. He spent an hour alternately weeping over the letter and swearing at the jail officials. Shortly after 10 o'clock he suddenly seized a large arm chair and attempted to strike down one of the death watches as he was bent over fixing the fire. He was seized by one of the other watches, however, and compelled to go to his cell cot and lie down. He went to sleep at once and did not waken until 4 a. m., when he arose and again went to the guards and demanded that he be liberated. The guards gave him no satisfaction, and he again went to his cot and slept for over an hour. He awoke for the last time shortly after 7. He refused to accept of any eatables whatever. He was apparently in great agony of mind but made no reference to his crime.

At 10:30 the jail inclosure was thrown open and the forty-six holders of tickets passed in. A terrible sound greeted their ears. It was made by Bellows in his cell swearing and cursing at the officers as they were putting the shackles on him. He succeeded in inflicting an ugly wound by biting one of the guard's hands. He was forced to the wall and was firmly bound.

At seventeen minutes of 11 o'clock Sheriff Clark stepped on the platform of the scaffold and in a firm, clear voice called the names of the twelve jurymen who had convicted Bellows. Each responded to his name. The death warrant was then read to Bellows in his cell. At fifteen minutes of 11 the death march commenced. The window from the criminal's cell had been taken out and a stairway leading up to the gallows erected. Up they wended, the sheriff leading, followed by his deputy. Then came Bellows in his stocking feet, partly carried by two strong men. He took a position over the trap and stared at the audience for a moment, his face wearing a sad, dejected look. His legs were pinioned, but not a word escaped his lips until Sheriff Clark adjusted the noose, when he broke down, crying "Please don't, please don't, please don't, please don't." The noose was then tightened, when in almost inaudible words he said:

"I am innocent."

His supporters stepped on either side of him. Sheriff Clark moved to the rear and at four minutes to 11, with that terrible lie fresh on his lips, the trap was sprung and Bellows swung into eternity.

Bellows did not struggle, except a slight shrugging of the shoulders and a convulsive motion of his feet. His pulse was up to 140, three minutes and forty seconds after the drop fell and then became less frequent until eight minutes and forty-three seconds, when life was pronounced extinct. The body remained hanging for twenty minutes, when it was cut down and placed in a coffin at the foot of the gallows. An examination proved that his neck had been broken in two places. No relatives witnessed the execution and none would accept of the remains. They were buried at the expense of the county.

SYNOPSIS OF THE CRIME.

The crime was one of the most brutal and cold-blooded ever recorded in the annals of Iowa. It was committed on the farm of Chester Wilcox, in Floyd county, Iowa, on the 8th day of July, 1886, the victim being his niece, Alice Waterman, a beautiful girl of sixteen. Bellows was born in the city of New York and early in youth was deprived of a father's care and was brought up with passions unchecked and temper unbridled, a vile and hardened wretch, whose every thought was licentious and whose aims were solely the gratifications of the lusts of his hardened heart. For a time before he reached his majority he drove a street car in Minneapolis and there went from bad to worse. With such traits of character as these he came into the happy and highly respected Waterman family, and proved the serpent in their Eden. With no respect for self or kindred he endeavored to destroy the virtue of their daughter, his niece, a highly cultivated and much respected young lady. Failing in this dastardly attempt and being forbidden longer the privileges of a home he was laying the foundation to destroy, without the slightest provocation except that engendered by a debased mind and an utterly hardened and corrupt heart, he murdered the poor girl, wantonly and cruelly. He had learned his lessons of unbridled passion on the streets and in the slums of great cities and the end is but a legitimate result of that education.

A BEE reporter after a ride of four miles southwest of Charles City, arrived at the beautiful Waterman residence and here learned from Mrs. Waterman, the details of the tragic affair.

Bellows was engaged by his brother-in-law, Mr. Waterman, as a helper on the farm. Mrs. Waterman did not like the attention he was paying her daughter and she asked him to go away and find another place to work. He seemed to take it all in good part at first until his mother moved into the neighborhood and then he tried to get Alice to leave home. Shortly after this he had some words with Mr. Waterman, and he went to the house, and while enraged said to Alice that he would outrage her before the year ended. A few days passed when one evening he entered her room by means of a ladder on the outside, and undertook to chloroform her, but was discovered and went away. Hoping to quiet Bellows, and thinking that all trouble might be avoided, Alice left her mother's home by consent of her parents and hired out as a servant in the family of Mrs. Wilcox. But not so. Early on the morning of the 8th of July, Bellows came around to the rear of the house and called for Alice, who was working in the kitchen, to come out, as he wanted to see her. The girl was frightened and hesitated to go, but finally went. The door had hardly closed behind her when Mrs. Wilcox heard the report of a revolver and a scream. Rushing to the door she threw it open, and looking through the outer screen saw Alice on the ground with her head partly raised from it, fighting her assassin as best she could, and at the same time pleading piteously and imploring the villain to spare her life. Untouched by the tender voice, he placed the muzzle against her breast and sent an unerring bullet crushing through her breast. Mrs. Wilcox rushed her little children into the front bedroom, bolted the doors behind her and called to her husband, who was making hay near the house, for help. He had heard the reports of the revolver, and at his wife's call started for the house. When he came near he saw Bellows standing over his prostrate victim. The murderer, hearing him, turned and with a quick motion fired the revolver and threw it at Wilcox's head. Mr. Wilcox thought the fire was intended for him and struck the fellow over the head with his fork handle, bringing him to his knees. He cried out: "Don't hit me again, I'm shot," and opened his vest, showing the blood flowing from a wound in the side. Wilcox threw him into a wagon, brought him to Charles City and lodged him in jail. An indignant and an outraged people rose up to avenge the crime, and for a time it looked as if Chester Bellows was to be lynched, but to the credit of the people the law was allowed to take its course. Medical assistance was called and the bullet probed for, and found beneath the skin in the back. He slowly recovered and was, tried in the November term of court, Judge Ruddick presiding. Against the advice of his counsel he brought in the plea of "insanity, produced by masturbation." His actions before the court beggars description. The trial was long and tedious, but the jurors, after the case was given to them, were not long in reaching the verdict, fixing the penalty at death. When Bellows was brought into the court room and the verdict read in his presence a smile was upon his countenance, evidently not assumed, for he said that the sentence was a relief to him, as he preferred death to life imprisonment. The judge proceeded to read the death sentence in a voice broken at times by strong emotions. Throughout the entire reading Bellows sat looking around the court room, accepting his doom with a smile, and showing such utter lack of feeling as to lose all sympathy he might have had. A motion was made for a new trial, but was promptly overruled.

In his death to-day on the gallows it is the universal verdict that Bellows received naught but what he justly deserved

A California Choke.

BAKERSFIELD, Cala., Dec. 16.—Thurston Lee was hanged here to-day for the murder of John Smith in March, 1883.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Adoption of the Constitution and Election of Officers.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 16.—The American Federation of Labor to-day decided to reduce the per capita tax for the support of the Federation from ½ to ¼ of a cent per month and impose an annual tax of $25 on all state federations; not to provide a salaried organizer, but to allow the Federation to employ such special organizers as may be needed from time to time. While local unions will not be compelled to form themselves into state federations, yet they are strongly urged to do so.

After recess consideration of the constitution was completed and the document adopted. It was resolved to ask congress to shorten the hours of labor in view of the decreased number of workmen. The committee reported that the rapid growth of the order resulted from, first, the avowed purpose of the federation to allow each trade to govern itself, and second, to the discontent of the Knights of Labor at the bad management of their affairs and the desperate use of strikes. The committee recommended the utmost resistance to the encroachment of the Knights of Labor, inasmuch as that organization showed itself opposed to the principles of trade unionism. The report was adopted.

The following officers were elected by acclamation: President, Samuel L. Gompers, New York, representing the International Cigarmaker's union; first vice president, Daniel McLaughlin, representing the Illinois Miner's association; second vice president, William Martin, of the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Workers' association; secretary, P. J. McGuire, of Philadelphia, Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; treasurer, Gabriel Edmonson, of the Washington Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners'.

It was decided to hold the next convention at St. Louis.

The Rebel Knights.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The committee appointed by the new district assembly of "Rebel" Knights of Labor for the purpose of drawing up a constitution has decided to use the old constitution of the knights simply eliminating those parts which they object to. The principal points are that the relations of the order towards other labor organizations and particularly trades unions, shall not be antagonistic but rather friendly; that the trades shall be organized within the order by trades and the mixed assemblies recognized only for persons who cannot for some reason or other join or form a trades-union; that each trade and district shall govern its own affairs without interference from the general officers, whereby all dues and assessments would remain in the district treasuries, with the exception of what little is required in the limited functions of the general officers; that there shall be no salaried officers, but the officers shall be paid according to the time actually consumed in work at a rate of wages current in their trade; that there shall be no general lecturers or general instructors or other sinecures; that no officers shall be elected for more than a year at a time. These principles so closely resemble those of the federation of trades that the question occurred if an alliance with that organization was not advisable, but no action was taken on the matter. The name of the new order will probably be "The Independent order of Knights of Labor."

Chicago Scraps With Its Annex.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—Open war was inaugurated this morning between the village officers of Hyde Park, recently annexed to Chicago, and the city officials. The dispute about annexation was settled in the courts a few days ago by a decision in favor of Chicago, and Mayor Roche sent officers down and took possession of the police and fire departments. Mayor Pierce and Comptroller Norton, of Hyde Park, however, refused to give up the village records. The matter stood in this shape until this afternoon, when the city officials took decided steps and drove the opposing forces out of the Hyde Park hall.

A Minister Fatally Sandbagged.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 16.—Rev. Dr. Basil Manley, a professor in a Baptist theological seminary and one of the most prominent Baptist divines of the south, was sandbagged by two masked men last night and fatally injured.

Senator Garrity Released.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—The case against State Senator Garrity for alleged unintentional shooting of Michael Kennedy, last month, was non-suited this morning and Garrity was released from his bonds.

A New Gold Find.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 16.—Advices from Presas Aldama, in the southern part of Tamaulipas, state that extensive deposits of gold and cinnabar or quicksilver bearing ore have been found near there.

Cleaning Out the Bandits.

NOGALES, A. T., Dec. 16.—It was learned late last night that the scouting party sent to Cienja in search of the Bernal bandits, found three men, supposed to belong to that band, near Chacala, and shot them.

A Kerosene Angel.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Maria Kather was burned to death last night by her dress catching fire while attempting to refill an oil lamp.

Business Troubles.

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Spencer & Perkins, dry goods merchants, have assigned. Liabilities, $50,000; assets, $40,000.

FEELING THE PUBLIC PULSE.

Second Day's Proceedings of the Convention of Republican Clubs.

PLATFORM AND PRINCIPLES.

Grosvenor, of Ohio, Rips Open the Rebel Record of Secretary Lamar and Kicks on His Promotion.

The Republican Clubs.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The convention of the republican clubs was called to order about 11 o'clock this morning, after which the chairmen of the different committees appointed yesterday made their reports. During the reading of the names of clubs, that of James G. Blaine was greeted with tremendous cheering, but it was noticed that the Ohio delegation was silent. After the report of the committee on credentials was adopted, General Robinson, of the Grant club of Binghamton, N. Y., offered the following resolution, which was referred to the proper committee.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the government to place our country in such state of defense as will command the respect of all nations, and for this purpose a large portion of the surplus revenue should be devoted to fortifying our harbors, building ships for our navy and manufacture of modern artillery for proper armament of same.

Grosvenor, of Ohio, offered the following resolution, which caused a sensation:

Whereas, It is the opinion of this national convention of republican clubs that no man who at any time denounced Abraham Lincoln, while he was president of the United States, as "a buffoon and a clown," or who ever declared from his seat in the United States senate that no man should denounce Jefferson Davis as a traitor in his presence and go unrebuked for it, or who in his official capacity as secretary of the interior ordered that the flag of the United States should be displayed at half mast on account of the death of Jacob Thompson, or who as senator of the United States many years after the war refused to vote that the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution are valid and binding, ought to be appointed to or hold the high office of justice of the supreme court of the United States; therefore,

Resolved, That L. Q. C. Lamar ought not to have been appointed justice of said court."

It was then carried on motion that all resolutions should be referred to the committee on resolutions without being read.

The permanent chairman, William M. Evarts, then took the platform amid tremendous cheering. He congratulated the convention on its organization and said its work would not interfere with any established organization of the party. It would, like the "grand old party," never acknowledge there could be chosen a candidate greater than the party. The democrats always pride themselves that they nominate men greater than their party, but that illusion has about been despelled. The election of the man who at present fills the chief executive office of the nation has caused this, and the democratic soothing syrup shows that it is totally devoid of any medicinal properties. The republican party never had any candidate or principles hostile to the country's best interests. Those deluded citizens who think so, mistake our principles and their duty. The clubs or leagues that will be organized now will prove organs, agents and channels for enforcing the sound political purposes from which the republican party never shrinks or fears. Thus the suffrage of this country will be formed and permeated with republican principles.

The speaker then referred to the suppression of the negro vote in the south, and then went into the message of Cleveland. He thought the democrats might try and explain it away if possible later on, and when they cannot do that, will retract. But we must hold them to it. We have a right to that message. The laboring class, who read that message will see through the phrases in which is disguised his real position toward them. Some people think that the republican senate will prevent the president from doing wrong. Nice way that for the people to elect a president, believing the opposite party will keep him straight.

The draft for the constitution for the national organization to be known as the "Republican League of the United States," was presented. A president, three vice presidents and a secretary and treasurer are to be the officers. A draft of a constitution for state leagues was also presented. The latter are to hold annual conventions but are not to express any preferences for any candidate before any political convention. Any club having twenty members is entitled to membership in the state league. A convention of leagues during the year 1888 is also provided for.

The committee on permanent organization named for president William M. Evarts of New York, and a long list of vice-presidents, among them W. W. Tracy, of Illinois; E. H. Conger, Iowa; R. W. Breckenridge, Nebraska; R. M. La Fallette, Wisconsin. For chief secretary, Colonel Charles W. Johnson, of Minnesota, with nine assistants.

The report was adopted and a vote of thanks tendered Hon. D. S. Ryan for the able and impartial manner manner in which he had discharged the duties of temporary chairman.

A recess was taken till 3 p. m.

It was after 4 o'clock, however, when the convention was again called to order. New York was the last to arrive. They had spent the recess in one of the small halls at the Grand opera house caucusing for candidates to present to the convention as officers of the proposed national league. They had prepared the following list: President, Chauncey M. Depew, of New York; vice president, James E. Blanchard, New York; executive committeeman for New York, Edgar T. Brackett.

The count made during the recess showed 1,353 delegates present and 359 clubs represented. In addition to these 350, the credentials of seventy-five clubs have been presented to the committee, but no delegates have applied for their credentials.

After Chairman Evarts had taken his seat amid applause there were repeated calls for General Nathan Goff, of West Virginia, who climbed to the platform. He said in part: "We are of a country that, before the organization of the republican party, was suffering from the blight of slavery, ignorance and democracy. We are republicans because, living in that land, we believe American labor and industry should be protected by law. [Cheers.] The democratic party has been false to that idea." The speaker then referred to the war, in which some of West Virginia's sons fought on the union side and some under stars and bars, but they all voted for James G. Blaine at the last election. General Goff followed with a eulogy of the republican party and concluded as follows: "With Allison of Iowa, Lincoln of Illinois, Harrison of Indiana, Sherman of Ohio, Hawley of Connecticut, Evarts and Hiscock of New York, Phil Sheridan of the United States, and last but by no means least Blaine of Maine, we should win."

Cheers followed each name.

Chairman Evarts, at the close of General Goff's remarks, stated that the committee on resolutions was ready to report, and Hon. John A. Kasson, of Iowa, then read the committee's report. It begins:

The associated delegates of republican clubs of the United States, now assembled for the first time in national convention, deem it a fit occasion for declaring to their countrymen the purposes of their organization. We hold it our duty—especially to the young men of the country, whose patriotic sentiments we would rouse into political activity—to give them reasons which will justify and demand their zealous concurrence and active co-operation in our efforts. A lengthy and careful review is then made of the deeds of the republican party from its earliest organization, its works of improvement, reform, etc. The preamble then says:

We acknowledge that there yet remains much work of citizenship to be accomplished. There are relics of barbarism still, but partially eradicated, still contesting their rights of supremacy, and among them are polygamy, ignorance and intemperance. Remembering that the republican party was founded upon principles of liberty, qualified by law and the good order of society, these associated with clubs cannot fail to continue the war against these triplets of barbarism till they are buried in the grave, where slavery sleeps eternally.

While these delegates were preparing to assemble in council for their patriotic work as dutiful citizens, they and all their countrymen were astounded by a message from the democratic chief magistrate of the United States, which abandoned all precedents of his predecessors. The constitution requires him to give congress information of the state of the union. Every president from Washington to Arthur has annually performed this duty with dignity. This president has descended so far from their practice as to allow himself to convert this constitutional duty into a partisan speech for the complete overthrow of the policy recommended by the founders of the government and especially endorsed by his earliest predecessors in office. We therefore call the attention of our countrymen to the facts of their own recent history under the influence of a policy of protection.

Statistics are then quoted going to show the large increase in the prosperity and growth of the country in all ways since 1861 under protective policy.

We, therefore, appealing to the foregoing history of the republican party and that of the country identified with it, make the following declarations:

We emphatically refuse to abandon the policy of home protection on which our unexampled national prosperity and progress are founded. The effect of the democratic policy would be disastrous by transferring many of our industries to England and robbing our working people of their employment and wages, for the benefit of British manufacturers by exhausting our accumulated capital in payment of foreign debts incurred for imported merchandise, and by damaging the entire system of an industrial and commercial intercourse.

We protest against it in the name of all American labor and enterprise.

We recognize in the message of the head of the democratic party a tender to the country of a choice between supporting the laborers and industries of Great Britain and Europe generally on the one hand and on the other the support of the inboring men and industrial enterprises of America.

We respectfully decline the former, which he recommends, and will stand by our people when we elect a president.

The principle of protection is founded upon the interests of the entire country, its supreme object to render America independent of Europe, to render the United States self-sustaining; to keep our money at home ann give employment to our own working people; to substitute home competition for foreign; to build up towns and villages; to encourage agriculture and enhance the value of farms; to provide home markets for the farmer; to adopt our manufactures to our domestic wants; to promote the opening of rapid and cheap communication between the states and territories; to open mines and develop all the vast resources of our country, so richly blessed of good, in all that is needed to make a party great, contented and happy.

While the republican party has since the war repeatedly cut down taxation and has uniform, when in power, kept the surplus within safe limits, the democracy have shown themselves incompetent for either duty and by persistently refusing any reduction of taxes unless coupled with a destructive assault on American industries, are responsible for the accumulation of the existing surplus and all the dangers it involves. We believe that only the restoration of republican supremacy can give assurance of unity, reduced taxes, a revised tariff and a limited surplus, with the preservation of a policy which alone saves us from becoming the commercial slaves of Europe.

The continued refusal of the democratic house of representatives to admit territories having a population of high character and intelligence, exceeding in number that of several states of the union, old and new, should arouse the indignation of all true Americans who believe in home rule and constitutional rights.

We condemn the hostility of the democratic party in the house of representatives to all means for the advancement of broad, popular education, and denounce its arbitrary conduct in thwarting every effort to consider any measure for this purpose.

Reviving no past issues, we insist, as the living question and indispensable bulwark of national security, upon a free, honest ballot and fair count in all states of the union.

We charge the democratic party with failing to provide out of the abundant resources of the nation for the upbuilding of a more efficient navy for the protection of our defenseless seacoast, for the restoration of our commercial marine—so essential to the training of American seamen and to the extension now of American trade, and we urge the necessity of prompt and energetic measures for those important objects.

We charge the democratic administration with culpable weakness in guarding American industries and individual rights on the high seas and in foreign lands, while the vessels and property of our citizens have been seized and sacrificed in foreign ports, and information of what they were justly entitled to under our treaties withheld from them or made dependent on foreign interpretations, and we demand a more vigorous assertion of American statesmanship which shall restore the respect once accorded to the just demands of our republic.

We charge the democratic party with being recreant to the republic and the pledges of the president of prostituting the civil service to partisan purposes. We hold that those professed friends of civil service reform who accept and follow this faithless action in preference to the party which placed the civil service law on the statute books, are themselves untrue to their professions. We condemn any backward steps in this reform and all hypocrisy in its administration.

We charge the democratic administration with trampling upon the just claims of the soldiers of the republic and with reopening accepted sentiments of deplorable sectional strife by removing the emblems of such strife from the place where they quietly repose in the archives of the nation and yielding only after the indignant protests of the American people.

Upon this history and these declarations we confidently summon to our aid not only the patriotism of the country, but its labor, its industry, its commerce and its statesmanship.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Adjourned untill to-morrow morning.

Anti-Saloon Republicans.

SYRACUSE, Dec. 16.—The anti-saloon republican state convention adopted a platform declaring an irrepressible conflict between the liquor traffic and christian civilization; that the saloon ought to be utterly extirpated, because the proprietors have combined in open war against the American Sabbath; that the compact between brewers and distillers has reached a point where the republican party must accept the issue and declare a determined hostility to these enemies of good morals and sacred institutions in our land, or abandon their claims to be parties of law and order, opposed to vice and crime, anarchy and socialism; points to Pennsylvania as an example of the success resulting from a bold stand; favors prohibition amendments, local option and restriction by taxation.

Albert Griffin, of Kansas, chairman of the national committee, announced that when he called on Blaine several months ago Blaine said he favored the anti-saloon movement.

Yachting Interests.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Yachting men are consoling themselves over the improbability of another challenge for the American cup with the rumor of an international steam yacht race for the prize offered by the American yacht club two years ago, valued at $10,000. The superiority of American steam yachts as evidenced by their brushes with foreign built craft abroad have chagrined the English. It is said that Commodore Clarke, of the Royal Clyde yacht club, intends to build a steam yacht of the largest class, with a view of challenging. Clarke was here during the last cup races in the steam yacht Mohican, which he sold.

THE CONGRESSIONAL RECESS.

It Will Probably Take Place Next Thursday For the Holidays.

NEBRASKA LAND CASE DECISIONS

Two of Them Passed Upon By Acting Secretary Muldrow—More About the Theater Sensation—Railroad Discrimination.

A Passage-at-Arms.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.

Congress will take its holiday recess on Thursday of next week, and will reconvene on Wednesday, January 4. The house adopted a joint resolution to this effect to-day, and, as it is the usual thing, there is no doubt but the senate will concur when it meets on Monday. The house adjourned over till Monday next, when the senate also will be in session. Neither body is expected to do any actual business until after the holidays. The house committees will not be announced before January, and until they are organized the work will be inconsequential. The only life at the capital to-day was in the sharp speeches of Mr. Reed, of Maine, who is the republican leader of the house, and Mr. Hatch, of Missouri, on the democratic side, over a concurrent resolution offered by the latter, providing for an adjournment of congress from Monday next to January 5. Mr. Reed charged the democrats, in bitter, sarcastic language, with a criminal waste of time, in which Mr. Hatch, in his reply, said the republicans had blocked all efforts to improve time and relieve the country by tariff reform.

DECISIONS IN NEBRASKA LAND CASES.

Acting Secretary Muldrow, in the absence of Secretary Lamar from the interior department, is grinding out a good many decisions in Nebraska land cases which have been appealed. To-day he sent to the acting land commissioner a modified confirmation of the decision of the latter officer in the case of Nancy Bowman vs Jerry Griffin, involving the n. e. ¼ of section 11, tp. 3, n. e. range 30, west of the McCook district. The acting secretary decides that neither Bowman nor Griffin is entitled to the land, nor is any one else entitled to prior entry to the land.

In the case of Van Gordon vs Joseph W. Ems, in which the land commissioner decided to reject the final proof of Ems and held for cancellation the filing the n. ¼ of the s. ¼ of section 10, township 3, n. e. r. 23, West Bloomington land district, the secretary finds that "Ems has not acted in good faith, that he never established a residence on the land with the intention of making it his home, and that his pretended transfer of his homestead to his brother was for the purpose of qualifying himself to make the affidavit necessary in such cases," and therefore his final proof is rejected and his filing cancelled. The decision of the land commissioner is affirmed.

THE SENSATION AT THE THEATER.

Miss Lucy Rhett Horton, whose sensational actions at Albaugh's theater last night I wired the BEE, was examined by Dr. B. J. Poole at the station house to-day, and he gave it as his opinion that steps should be taken to secure proper treatment for her at the insane asylum. It is feared by the police officials that she might, if she goes at liberty, attempt to shoot Senator Morgan. Lieutenant Amiss says she is much embittered against the senator on account of the part he took in upholding his son at the time of the shooting affair referred to. She talks about it considerably and the lieutenant thinks that in some crazy moment she might attempt to shoot him. Lucy Horton, who is probably twenty-four years old, made her first appearance in Washington in 1880, introducing herself in rather a startling manner. She had come from her home in Alabama, following John Morgan, son of the senator, from Alabama, whom she charged with having betrayed her. She met young Morgan one evening at dusk on the street and shot at him. The ball struck him in the shoulder and did not inflict a serious injury. Miss Horton was arrested, but the charge against her was never pushed. She was said to be insane, and spent some time under treatment at St. Elizabeth. Many persons befriended her, and she secured a position in the postoffice department which she still holds. Since then John Morgan has met a tragic fate. He was drowned in the Potomac above West Washington a year ago last summer, together with a young woman, by the upsetting of a canoe. This morning she was excited and refused to leave the station, having the impression that she had been arrested. On the blotter of the station "insanity" is written opposite her name. Miss Horton, when she shot young Morgan, was a slender wisp of a girl. The Miss Horton of to-day is quite plump. She was attired in a dark blue dress with deep red trimmings. Her face is full, but was very pale to-day, and her dark hair is cut short.

"It was an outrage," she said. "I think John Morgan or George Morgan got them to do it."

"Were you not ill at the theater?" was asked.

"No, I was not. I had been looking at the play and was amused. When that man shot the woman I turned to my companion and said: 'I do not like to see such things, even on the stage. I wonder what play this is,' and then I turned to look at my programme, turning so the light would fall on it, and I could see the name of the play. As I did that two brutes seized me and I was brought here. I will not leave here until this matter has been investigated."

Miss Horten, it was thought, gave way under the strain upon her overwrought nerves, due to the emotional character of the play, and the to her especially suggestive scene in which the pistol played a part. Miss Horton, during times of excitement this morning, asked for a pistol and seemed intent on doing damage either to herself or others. She has been lodging in the house of Mr. Lawrence, No. 1203 G street, and he informed Lieutenant Amiss that her actions had been strange for several weeks. She has been under the care of the police before, and Lieutenant Amiss expressed the opinion that she suffered from the effects of some drug to which she was addicted.

RAILROAD DISCRIMINATION.

Omaha is not to be alone in her fight against railroad discriminations. Some southern cities intend to make complaint, it is stated, upon grounds similar to those occupied by the metropolis of Nebraska. To-day the interstate commerce commission gave a hearing in the case of John H. Martin and M. H. Martin, of Denver, Colo., who allege violation of section 4 of the inter-state law—the short and long haul section—on the part of the Southern Pacific company, the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific roads. The complainants allege that in the transportation of dried fruits from San Francisco to Denver the railroad company charges $2.30, while from San Francisco to Omaha, a distance much greater, the charge is only $1.05. It is further stated that the rate back from Omaha to Denver is only $1.40.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR FOR POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

I learn to-night that there is in circulation among the Knights of Labor throughout the country a petition to congress for the establishment of a system of telegraph by the government upon the plan proposed by Senator Cullom, of Illinois, who introduced a bill on the subject this week. It is said that Senator Cullom anticipated the movement by the knights and it is said that he is to be their champion in the upper branch of congress on this topic. If the Knights of Labor go about their demands in concert and earnestness there is little doubt that they will succeed. The petitions from the knights are expected to appear in congress very soon after the holiday recess, when the agitation of the subject of government telegraph will begin with great earnestness. The Knights of Labor wield a very potent influence here. It is said that every member of organized labor will have an opportunity to sign this petition, and it is believed that every one will attach his or her name to it. The canvass being made is the most thorough possible.

SMALL TALK.

Representative McShane left this afternoon for Boston, whence he goes immediately to Omaha.

Mayor Sawyer, of Lincoln, is in the city to await a decision of the supreme court in the Lincoln habeas corpus case. The mayor is one of the defendants in the case.

Senator-elect Granville C. Moody, of Deadwood, is here and says Dakota people prefer to not be annexed to statehood if they cannot have their territory first divided.

The postmaster general has positively refused to grant the petition for the establishment of Loran postoffice, in Boone county, on the ground that an office of that name already exists in Butler. The patrons of the office are called upon to furnish another name.

C. W. Bucker, of Iowa, has been appointed to a clerkship in the postoffice department. He will sign the pay roll for $900 a year.

Calvin S. Wheaton, of Cedar Rapids, Ia., grand chief conductor of the Order of Railway Conductors, is at the Ebbitt.

It is believed that the house committee on rules will be composed of the speaker and Messrs. Randall, Mills, Reed and either General Brown, of Indiana, or Mr. Cannon, of Illinois.

Ed Hunter, chairman of the Iowa democratic state committee, was a visitor at the house to-day. PERRY S. HEATH.

A Brief Session of the House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—A concurrent resolution was submitted that when the houses adjourn Monday, December 19, they stand adjourned until January 5, and, after considerable debate, the resolution was amended so as to make the adjournment for recess occur Thursday, December 22.

Mr. Townshend of Illinois offered a resolution providing that next Monday shall be devoted to the introduction and reference of bills and resolutions. Laid over till Monday.

Mr. Blanchard of Louisiana offered a resolution expressive of the regret with which the house has heard of the death of E. W. Robertson, late member elect to the fiftieth congress from Louisiana and then, as a mark of respect, the house adjourned until Monday.

Capital City Notes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Comptroller Trenholm, ex-officio commissioner of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust company, to-day submitted to the house his annual report, showing a balance, December 3, of $6,191. There are still due 1,496 claims amounting to $7,314, and not paid because no demand had been made. The available assets, estimated at $13,817, are considered sufficient for the payment of these claims whenever called for, and for defraying the necessary expenses of the office. The commissioner renewed the suggestion contained in his last report, concerning the payment by congress of the balance due depositors; submits the draft of a bill for the purpose, and quotes the recommendation that congress discharge its plain duty in the matter.

The secretary of the interior to-day transmitted to the house the report of the commissioners appointed in conjunction with the Texas state commission to run a line between a portion of the Indian territory and Texas. The Icommission has ceased its labors, not being able to effect a settlement of the controversy as to the point where the 100th meridian of longitude crosses the Red river, in accordance with the treaty of 1819 between the United States and Spain.

Secretary Endicott left the city to-night on a tour of inspection in the west.

The clerk of the house has completed and laid before that body an index of southern claims and claims referred to the court of claims under the Bowman act. The total number of claims reported to congress is 22,298, which includes allowed, disallowed and barred cases, involving the sum of $60,255,150, of which amount the sum of $4,636,950 was allowed.

Nebraska and Iowa Pensions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Pensions were issued for the following Nebraskans to-day: Abil A., widow of Cornelius Baker, Union Ridge. Mexican war—Alfred B. Stevens, Riverton. Original—Benjamin F. Frair, Bertrand. Increase—John H. Hamilton, Carrico.

Pensions for Iowans: Walter (deceased), father of John Dykeman, Le Mars; Mahala, mother of Henry C. Vaughan, Monroe. 1812—Susan, widow of John Wick, Emmetsburg. Mexican war—John Redburn, Moulton; Philip Bradstreets, Tiffin. Original—Jonathan B. Fellows, Emmetsburg; Isaac A. Hardenbrook, Prairie City. Increase—Cornelius Jordan (deceased), Boone; George Miller, Council Bluffs; Charles W. Morgan, Clarinda; Luke McLoney, Eddyville; Charles B. Thompson, Knoxville; Edward Murphy, Utica. Reissue—Martin Harrington, Cherokee; Myron E. Billings, Waverly.

Army News.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Leave of absence for six months has been granted, on surgeon's certificate, to Captain Thomas C. Lebo, Tenth cavalry, with permission to leave the Department of the Pacific. Leave of absence has been granted, on certificate of disability December 7, 1886, to First Lieutenant A. Mann, regimental adjutant, Seventeenth infantry, extended three months. The extension of leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant James H. Waters, Twentieth infantry, October 18, is further extended to include January 1, 1888.

Lands Restored to the People.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Secretary Lamar to-day issued an order directing all lands heretofore withdrawn and held for indemnity purposes under grants to the following named railroad companies to be restored to the public domain and offered to settlement and file under the general laws after giving the usual notice: B. & M., Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Cedar Rapids & Missouri River, Dubuque & Pacific, Chicago & Atlantic, and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul in Iowa; the St. Joseph & Denver City, in Kansas, and the Chicago & Northwestern in Michigan and Wisconsin.

To Prepay Interest On Bonds.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Arrangements are now being made at the treasury department for the payment on January 1, next, of $8,414,670 interest on United States bonds and Pacific railroad bonds. This is in addition to the $848,452 interest which would have fallen due at that date, but which has been prepaid with rebate.

Utah's State Constitution.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—A committee of citizens of Utah, headed by Delegate Caine, to-day waited on Speaker Carlisle and Senator Ingalls and presented to them copies of the state constitution adopted at the last Utah convention.

The Blair Education Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The senate committee on education held a meeting to-day and unanimously ordered a favorable report on the Blair education bill. It will be reported as it passed the senate in the last congress.

Postal Changes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—The following Nebraska postmasters were appointed to-day: William I. D. Brandon, McCann, Cherry county, vice William H. Carter, resigned; Hanl Jones, Neoma, Boone county, vice Hiram Z. Sneider, removed.

The office at Dalby, Alamakee county, Ia., was discontinued to-day.

Tory Treachery.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Justin McCarthy, speaking at Hull last night, said that before the last election Lord Carnarvon negotiated with the Parnellites with the object of ousting Gladstone. He stipulated that the conservatives should concede the measure the home rule desired by Parnell and himself. The negotiations collapsed because Parnell considered Gladstone the best man to deal with.

DESPOILERS OF THE DEAD.

A Trio of Iowa Grave Robbers Captured in the Act.

NOCTURNAL VISITORS NABBED.

The Town of Mitchellville Greatly Excited and Threats of Lynching Freely Made—The Miscreants Jailed.

Boby-Snatchers Captured.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 16.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—There was a startling case of attempted grave robbery a few miles from this city early this morning, in which the robbers were caught in the act and narrowly escaped lynching. On Wednesday Mrs. Catharine Claflin, aged sixty, mother-in-law of a former resident of this city, was buried in the cemetery at Mitchellville, having died on Monday of pneumonia. That day parties at Mitchellville, which is at the eastern edge of this county, received an anonymous letter saying that the grave might be robbed and that it would be well to be on the watch. That night Constable J. W. Jones, L. E. Kelley and W. W. Hedges watched the grave all night, but no one disturbed the good woman's last resting place. Yesterday a man was sent to watch the trains and he saw a young man—since identified as C. S.