CALLS A HALT ON CRITICISM

Commandant Hammond's Story of the Soldiers' Home Affair.

STRUGGLING AGAINST BIG ODDS.

He Asks That Judgment be Suspended Until a Full and Fair Investigation Can Be

Made.

The Soldiers' Home. LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 8 .- | Special to THE BEE. |- Commandant Hammond, of the soldiers' home, when asked about the strictures upon the management of that institution, responded frankly, unreservedly, and with an

unmistakable air of sincerity:

"I think I can explain some matters," he said, "so that they will be placed before the public in a new light. I don't mean to make a statement as a defense of my management, because that will have to stand on its merits anyway; but Americans admire fair play, and I want the home to have a fair show be fore judgment is passed on it. The legisla ture of two years ago appropriated \$20,000 The present building cost \$28,000. The board of public lands and buildings concluded that the home could not be opened until July, 1889. I had been appointed commandant, was under salary, and had my heart in the work. I told the board that if they would back me up I would try to open the institu-tion in July, 1878. I interviewed merchants in Grand Island and Omaha, got bids on furniture, bed clothing and other supplies, and got them to agree to wait for their pay until this legislature should make an appropriation. I had the matter before the board, and they said go ahead. The board were able to delay payment on several building items, and I had a fund of about \$5,700 to work with. A part of that was needed for supplies, teams, etc. Then came the wages of employes and the balance was available for maintenance. We have enough left to

pay the employes pext month. The public do not understand what a trial it has been to keep the home going. It has been a constant strain and makeshift. For instance, one of our coal dealers refused to furnish coal longer on credit, and I had to beganother one to help us out. It has been an unceasing struggle to make the little fund stretch over the gap to our next appropria-tion. The old soldiers had to be fed and warmed, and we had to manage other matters

as best we could. as best we could.

"The hospital arrangements have been criticised. In the first place, the institution is a home, and not a hospital. But we took care of the sick to the best of our ability. We had to use quarters in the home because we had no other place. We put four sick men in one room, because to separate them would have required eight nurses, and we hadn't the money to hire so many. Two of the men had diseases that created a sickening stench, but if we had a hospital their uncleanliness and odor would not have come to the notice of other inmates. We need a hospital, and that is one of the items that swells

the appropriation we ask for.
"That is a sample of the difficulties we had to meet. Other state institutions are organized and have full treasuries. I have not only had the work of bringing system out of chaes, but I have had a hand-to-mouth struggle to feed and warm my boys. There is no board of control, and I have had no one with whom to advise. I do not pretend to be infallible. There may be smarter men then I, but none with a heart more sincere

in this work.
"There has been criticism of the site and the construction, but of course I am not re-sponsible for them. Nor am I to blame for sanitary defects in the way of sewers, though I think they can be remedied. As to supplies sent by the Woman's Relief Corps, they have all been enjoyed by the veterans except some jellies, which are being reserved for the sick. They are on our shelves and accounted for in the books. My family cat in the dining room with the soldiers and have the same fare as they. Speaking of criticisms, there is a visiting committee an pointed by the governor. Applicants are admitted to the home by me, subject to the approval of that committee, and yet they have thrown the blame upon me in several cases although they have the same authority and the same evidence as I. That's not fair, is it

"Among the items in the appropriation we ask for is one of \$17,500 for twenty-five cot tages. I fear the state undertook a large contract when it decided to care for the dependent families of old soldiers. To do that properly we need cottages. We already have applications from twenty-one families, and think we could fill sixty cottages during the pext two years. The inmates of the home now are seventy-one men, four women and two children. If there is anything wrong it the management of the home I expect it will be criticised, but, as a matter of fair play, I think the public and the legislature ought low some of the difficulties we have had to

Cutting Down Appropriations. LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. S .- | Special to THE

BEE.]-The soldiers' home committees held a joint meeting this afternoon to discuss the appropriation bill. They made a cut of about \$5,000 in the items asked for wages They considered about one half of the bill, and will undoubtedly make other reductions. The commandant sug-gests the cutting out of the \$10,000 item for furniture, \$5,000 for the commandant's residence, all aggregating about \$20,000. Th committees will meet again next Tuesday.

The Governor Indignant.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. S .- [Special to THE BEE.]-Governor Thayer is annoyed by the criticisms upon the soldiers' home. denies emphatically the statement that the building is located in a hollow, and quotes General Averill, of the national home, as saying that the Nebraska institution is one of the best of the kind in the United States The inmates are well fed, well clothed and kept comfortably warm, he says. Many live better than they did before, he adds, and what more can be asked

Senate.

LINCOLN, Feb. 8 .- [Special to THE BEE.] The morning session of the senate was largely consumed in routine work, during which everybody but the president and the secretary read newspapers, and the only relief from dull monotony was a flurry of talk over the resolution of the committee on accounts seeking to establish rules for the allowance of claims for committees visiting state institutions.

Chairman Taggart explaimed that the com mittee were confronted with bills aggregating about \$280 for trips to Kearney and Grand Island. One of the items was for nineteen tickets to Kearney and return, and there were only two members of the senate committee on the trip. Another item was for nine tickets to Grand Island, but only three senatorial committeemen were of the party. These claims should be paid by some one but the committee did not care to shoulder the responsibility of allowing them. The resolution was intended to make the senate fix a rule for the guidance of the committee; in other words, to fasten upon the senate as whole the responsibility of allowing or rejecting the claims.

Several gentlemen explained what little they knew about the management of the junketing trips, and the information was thrown out that they were bossed by some one over in the house. Several inquiries were made as to who ordered the nineteen tickets for two committeemen, but this branch of the investigation was not urged, and the

mystery is as dense as ever. After a long talk Ransom offered a substi-tute resolution that no expense shall be incurred for a visiting committee, except on the certificate of its chairman. It was adopted with su amendment by Conner,

limiting the chairman to the expenses of

members of the committee.

Ransom's resolution is understood as applying to the future. It is assumed that the bills for picnic parties to date will go, but the accounts committee will hold another meeting and may apply Ransom's rule to the bills now before them, in which event the responsibility will be thrown upon the chairmen of the two visiting committees. Sonator Line says these trips cost the state about \$4.00 terms are trips.

about \$4,000 two years ago.

The charge of \$80 for a special Pullman car for the nine persons ticketed to Grand Island and back, is criticised most savagely. It is preed that the trip was made at night. ut the critics think the excuse thin in view of the several messes of the legislature.

The judiciary committee recommended indefialto postponement for the Sutherland
and Robinson bills, which purpose giving the
ballot to women in municipal elections. The friends of the proposition railied and after a short, sharp skirmish succeeded in having them put on the general file, the effect of which is to

bring them before the senate in due time for The senate passed an important bill by Norval intended to aid the suppression of disturbances during strikes. Following is

"Whoever willfully throws or shoots a mis-sile at a locomotive engine, or railroad car, or street railway car, or at a person on such engine or a passenger or employe on such car, or in any way assaults or interferes car, or in any way assaults or interferes with a conductor, engineer, fireman or brakeman, or other employe while in the discharge of his duty on or near a railroad engine, car, or street railway car, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding ninety days."

The bill creating Hooker county was put on third reading and passed; also a bill relativishing possibility on delinance, tayes

linquishing penalties on delinquent taxes levied on town lots in abandoned town The committee of the whole approved Nes-bitt's bill giving the Tenth district two judges. It covers afteen counties.

The ball was opened in the committee of he whole by Rausom's bill empowering county commissioners to improve streets within city and village limits. There was an unlimited flow of talk. Town and country members argued for their respective localiies with vim and persistency.

to The bill was indefinitely postponed. The committee approved a half dozen bills amending the laws governing counties under township organization, and the senate ad

House.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 8.-[Special to THE Ber. |-- A large number of reports from standing committees were represented. The following were recommended for passage: A bill by Denman fixing fees of constables

and court officers in civil proceedure. A bill to pay Senator Hoar of Massachusetts \$2,000 for services rendered the state in the case of Morton against Nebraska in the supreme court of the United States in regard to the title to certain lands.

A bill relieving hotel keepers from responsibilities for loss of guests from their own rooms of certain kinds of property. A bill prohibiting any person holding the

office of judge, clerk, court reporter, sheriff, coroner or any county or township office, from practicing law within the county of their residence.

A bill to empower local school boar is to exclude pupils from the public schools who

have not been vaccinated. Senate file 327, a bill to define and punish the crime of "unlawful assaults and threats." was recommended for passage.

A full list of all persons in the employ of the house was presented by the committee on

employes, and ordered printed.
The house refused to make a special order of Carbin's joint resolution pro-viding for the submitting of an amendment to the state constitution authorizing the investment of the permanent school funds in school district bonds, by placing it at the head of the general bills on file The following bills were recommended for

The following bills were recommended for indefinitement postement.

A bill by McMillon providing that the fees of the county clerk and assistants in counties of 70,000 inhabitants and eyer, shall be paid out of the general fund and all fees received. by the clerk shall be turned over to the

Gardner offered the following resolution. which was adopted: Whereas, There has recently been an explosion at the state maane asylum resulting loss of life and great damage to property,

Resolved. That a committee of five be appointed to act with a like committee from the senate, to investigate the causes of said exlosion and report their findings to this

The speaker named Messrs. Gardner, Trenton, Johnson, Severin and Majors as said The house went into committee of the

whole, and Corbin's bill to provide for listing of property for purposes of taxation at its true cash value. After some sharp parliamentary skirmishing, it was reported back with the recommendation that it do pass, by a vote of 58 to 18. Gilbert's usury bill was then taken up.
Mr. Gilbert defended the measure at

ength, and showed that an excess of over \$2,000,000 is annually wrung from the people by extortionate rates of interest. He thought this one of the most important measures before the legislature, and that the bill or a similar measure was urgently demanded. Baker opposed the bill. He said such a measure would throw a cloud on all promisory notes, as it makes all contracts at usurous rates absolutely void, and not merely voidable; also, that no honorable man in the state would seek to take advantage of the usury act to avoid paying his just debts, and it would simply put a power in the hands of dishonest individuals to be used for

Pending the discussion on the question the iouse adjourned. AFTERMOON SESSION.

A few bills were introduced, among them me by O'Brien, providing for a reduction in

the number of justices of the peace in metropolitan cities. The Funck bill to enable railroads to consolidate was taken up for discussion as a special order. Gilchrist moved to refer the bill to the committee on judiciary.

Olmstead hoped that the motion would not Hall favored the motion made by Gilchrist. He thought there was a colored man in the wood pile somewhere, and claimed that there was no provision protecting the revissionary rights of the city of Omaha. It was not true

that the new company must assume all the liabilities of the old company. Baker admitted this, but claimed that he ald not see why this bill could not be conidered now. Cady doubted the constitutionality of the

neasure, and wanted this point to be de-ided before going any further. Burnham defended the committee on cororations and said they had held this bill onger than any other, and had heard counsel on both sides.

Fieldgrove said they wanted to find a colored man in the fence, but could not see what was wrong.

Berlin defended the report of the commit-tee on corporations. He said he had fully

investigated the matter and was satisfied the bill was all right. He could not afford to and would not support it if there was anything wrong about it. He also read letters from leading citizens of Omaha endorsing Berlin wanted to know why Hall had sud-

dealy taken such an interest in Douglas Hall answered him and declared he was

glad that no one questioned his credentials, and that no siurs or insinuations should deter him from doing his duty, and he pro-posed to examine every bill affecting Omaha with as much care as he was able to ex-Olmstead said Hastings was blessed with

two street car lines, and more quarrelsome, avaricious and disagreeable companies never existed anywhere.

Gilchrist said that he had been approached by lawyers who warned him that if this bill passed Omaba would lose all her reversionary interests in her city railroads, but as Mr. Berlin had read the opinion of A. J. Popple-

ton, that Omaha's interests would be protected under this bill, he would accept it, and withdraw.

Hall offered an amendment to protect small

stockholders from being frozen out.

The amendment was lost.

The bill was then passed section by sec-

Hall and Rayner vigorously opposed the bill. Hall declared that the whole thing was a scheme for railroad companies to get pos-session of streets they otherwise could not

Hayner made a long speech against the bill, and asserted that it yad been chambioned by lobby sits, whose actions on the floor were extremely reprehensible.

Efforts were made to delay further action, out they were voted down and the commit-ce reported the bill back with a recommendation that it do pass.

The bili was ordered to a third reading, and passed by a vote of 77 to 13.

Dempster offered a resolution, reciting

hat Whereas, Grave doubts existed as to the constitutionality of the senate file 31, the submission bill: therefore be it Resolved. That the judges of the supreme court be requested to furnish the house with an opinion on the following points: Is the bill constitutional!

2. Could a voter east his ballot for both!
3. If both were adopted what would be the This resolution was adopted without oppo-

Prof. Bessey Examined.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 8,- Special Telegram o Tug Bes. |-- Prof. Bessey, director of the agricultural experiment station, was eximined to-night by the senate investigating committee. He explained the growth and methods of the station. Nothing of special importance was brought out. Treasurer Dates will be examined Monday night.

Legislative Gossip.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 8 .- | Special to THE BEE. |-The members settled down to business this morning in good shape, and put through a surprising amount of business. Senator Hear's claim for services in de fending the state against a man named Morton in a dispute in regard to the title to certain lands, was allowed by the committee on claims. The amount is \$2,034. It is said that this bill is a chestnut of long standing, and that there is a "divy" in it, and if this be

true it will doubtless -get a thorough airing n committee of the whole.

The letter of Morrissey, in the Herald, charging that the committee on privileges and elections was tampered with, is causing nuch comment among the members, prominent member of the committee marked that Morrissey may be about right, but the overtures did not come from the re-

Hon G. M. O'Brien introduced his first bill to day. It is intended to get a better class of justices of the peace by reducing the number of eighteen to six. Committee work will be pushed vigorously from now on. The general file, however, is loaded down with bilis, many of which will

never be reached.

Tom Majors of Nemaha is the happiest man in the legislature. There was a luli of fifteen minutes in the

usiness of the house this afternoon. A pecial order—the Funck street railway con-olidation bill—was set up for a special order and no one seemed to have anything to suggest to interest or amuse the house.

Mr. McBride wielded the gayel this afteroon and made a very acceptable presiding

officer.
W. R. Leach, J. J. Leach and wife, Dr. S.
W. McGrew, G. W. Berlin, W. F. Wright,
ex-Governor R. W. Furnas, William Swann,
Judge Oren, Posey Freenan, Lincoln Matey, D. J. Wood and C. Cambell, of Auburn, Neb., called on Representative Lash yester-day and took in the debate on the Douglas

county contest.

Gilbert of York made a good speech in defense of his usury bill. His remarks made a deep impression on the members. When the measure is called up again a lively time is sure to follow. The farmers may be credited with knock-

ing out the "oil inspector." Several other useless and extravagant schemes will also be As usual in legislative bodies, a few members do all the talking. With the exception of a dozen or so, the members prefer to act rather than talk.

Several ambitious statesmen are included among the members of the house. Among those who will yet be heard from in political circles are Baker of Jefferson, Raynor of Cheyenne, Corbin of Johnson, Gilbert of York, Fieldgrove of Buffalo, Christy of Clay, Dempster, and Ballard of Fillmere, Gilchrist of Box Butte, and Hall of Lancas-

While Judge Mason was before the judiciary committee giving his opinion of the constitutionality of woman suffrage, Senator Ransom asked the judge what he thought about the supreme court's opinion tain much disputed case. The old gentleman was not to be caught, and his response is bowed my head in mute submission," he said, with impressive dignity, "and put my finger on my lips in silent acquiescence with the crystalized embodiment of the law."

Governor Thayer is indignant at an article in an Omaha paper alleging that Mrs. Thayer was a member of the junketing party to Kearney, and insinuating that a bill was presented for her ticket while she held a "It is a bald falsehood," said the gov-"Mrs. Thayer has not been outside of Lincoln since January I, nearly six weeks. You reporters are too sensational. Such insinuations are enough to make a man dama the newspapers."

St. Louis Dynamite Fiends.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 8.-Last June a year ago some unknown fiend attempted to blow up Dr. Buck's home with dynamite. The explosion was terrific, tearing away the lower portion of the house, entailing a loss of over \$1,000. Fortunately no one was hurt. De tectives were employed but failed to find the miscreants. Last night another attempt was made, but only a portion of the dynamite ex-ploded, the only damage done being the wreckage of a carriage house. A portion of the dynamite and a piece of the fuse are now in the hands of the police. Dr. Buck stands high in the community, and these attempts cannot be explained.

Washington, Feb, 8 .- The computations

The Tariff Bill Amendments.

made by treasury expert upon the probable effect of the senate amendments to the tariff bill reached the committee on ways and means to-day. A democratic member of the committee says that the tables show that one half of the reduction of \$20,000,000 effected by the changes in the sugar schedule is wiped out by the changes in the other tariff schedules, which, in themselves, would result in a considerable increase in the reveue. This would leave the net reductions f revenue at \$12,000,000 or \$13,000,000 ing the internal revenue sections out of the

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.-The negotiations be tween Vanderbilt and Morgan for a consolidation of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis (Bee line) and the Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis & Chicago roads (big four), have been successfully closed. The terms are believed to include an exchange of stock. It is understood that the parties behind the deal are also working for an arrangement with the Cleveland, St.

A Consolidation of Roads.

Louis & Kansas City, which is now con-structing a bridge across the Mississippi at Alton, but the officers of that road prefer Alton, but the officers of that road prefer to remain independent, and it is not likely that they will agree to give any system exclusive connections. The Kilrain-Smith Fight. London, Feb. 8. - Articles have been

signed for the fight between Jem Smith and

Jake Kilrain, London prize-ring rules, for

£1,000 a side. The fight is fixed for October.

NEBRASKA NEED NOT FEAR.

OMAHA. SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 9, 1889.

The Government's Proposed Irrigation Project

WILL REDOUND TO HER BENEFIT

The Site for New Fort Omaha - The Des Moiner River Land Bill Ready for Executive Approval.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BRE,) 513 FOURTRENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. S.

A few days ago Senator Paddock received a letter from State Geologist L. E. Hicks, at Lincoln, in reference to the former's apprehension as to the possible consequences of intercepting the waters of the Platte in connection with the proposed irrigation projects by the government. Prof. Hicks states that hitherto they have been used only during the rrigating season, but that since it is proposed to impound also the flood and storm waters and the melting snow in the mountains, Kansas and Nebraska ought to stand together, not only to guard their people from injury in this matter, but to secure some adequate share of the benefits arising from the expenditure of the \$5,000,000 estimated for the preliminary surveys, and that there should be prompt action to change the proposed plans before all the waters are tied up by vested rights. The letter of Prof. Hicks was referred to Major Powell, chief of the geological survey. To-day Senator Paddock received a reply. Major Powell says that the Platte and the Arkansas have their sources in the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming, but after passing the Colorado and Wyoming lines they receive great additions to their volume from the streams and storms of the lower country, so that but a small portion of the water which these rivers discharge in the Missouri and Missossippi comes from the mountain regions. In Colorado and Wyoming all agriculture is dependent upon artificial irrigation, as the water which comes direct from the heavens is insufficient to produce crops. The same, he says, is true of the western portion of Kansas and Nebraska. Major Powell continues: "In this portion of the arid region under consideration, embracing a part of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas, agriculture is possible only by diverting the water of the streams out upon the adjacent lands, and the real question is what effect will the development of irrigation in Colorado and Wyoming have upon irrigation in Nebraska and Kansas. The North Platte and the South Platte and the Arkansas present distinct problems. They must, therefore, be considered separately. The Platte has two branches—the North Platte draining a large area of Wyoming, and the South Platte a large area in Colorado. A large volume of this water can be used across the line in Nebraska to better advantage than in Wyoming, and the storage of the waters of the North what effect will the development of and the storage of the waters of the North Platte, which will be chiefly in Wyoming, will greatly benefit Nebraska. In fact, Nebraska is far more interested in the storage of the waters of the North Platte than Wyoming, for in general the storage of the waters of the North Platte will benefit Wyoming in a very slight degree. It must be understood that irrigation can be

produced without storage by using the waters of the running streams during the sea-

son of irrigation, which is very short, aver-

aging usually for the various crops about

reases the area of irrigable, lands by hold

ing back in reservoirs water that would oth-

erwise run to waste during ten months of the

year. It is this water, to be stored about the

wo months in this region.

neadwaters of the North Platte,

the people of Nebraska are to be chiefly ben-NEBRASKA HAS THE ADVANTAGE In his letter Major Powell continues to say that the South Platte has its source in the mountains of Colorado, and in that state irrigation is already greatly developed, so that practically all the water of the South Platte which flows from the mountains during the season of irrigation is already used in critical seasons. Whether the water should be surrendered by the people of Colorado to those of Nebraska, whether the agri-cultural industries along the Platte and its tributaries in Colorado should be destroyed order that new industries in Nebraska may be created is a question that everyone can easily answer for himself. But there is a further condition worthy of consideration.

If the waters of the South Platte now used in Colorado were used in Nebraska, the area brought under cultivation in the latter state would be very much smaller than the area now under cultivation in Colorado by the use of the same waters. In that region the rain is condensed on the mountains. Comparatively little falls on the arid plains, not enough to produce perrennial springs. It is probable that three acres can be gated near to the mountains of Colo-rado where only one acre can be irri-gated in Nebraska. This must be understood, however, as an estimate and not as actually determined by stream gauging. The im-portant question is what effect will storage have upon the supply of water from the South Platte. It has already been stated that the waters of the North Platte can be advantageously and economically stored in the mountain regions, but this is not true of the South Platte. The reservoir system is a necessity. With some important exceptions the waters of the South Platte must be stored below, as the declivity of the moun-tains drained by that river is in general too great to offer a favorable place for their storage. They will, therefore, have to be stored in the foothills and on the plains. The stored waters will decrease the volume of the South Platte where it crosses the Colorado-Nebraska line during the nonirrigating season. The use of the water which falls as rain during the irrigating season near to the mountains in Colorado, as it is now chiefly used, greatly diminishes the volume in western Nebraska, but on the volume in western Nebraska, but on the other hand the storage of water during the irrigating season, will greatly increase the water available for Nebraska during the irrigations of the irrigation of the irriga gating season. Taking the facts as they are namely, that the waters of the South Platte falting during the irrigating season are already used in Colorado, the prospects for ir ready used in Colorado, the prospects for irrigating from the South Platte in western Nebraska depends upon the storage of the waters falling during the non-irrigating season. The greater the amount of water stored in Colorado, the greater will be water stored in Colorado, the greater will be the area irrigated in Nebraska. Major Powell describes in his letter to Senator Paddock the use proposed for the Arkansas in Kansas and elsewhere in irrigation. The letter is of great length and vast importance and will be used in the guidance of the leg islation by congress. Major Powell in closing his lengthy statement, says that the question of the use of the Platte and the Arkansas rivers is one affecting agriculture only; that the amount of irrigatable lands redeemed in Nebraska and Kansas by the waters of the Platte and Arkansas depends upon the amount of water stored in Colorado

and Wyoming.

THE SITE FOR NEW FORT OMAHA.

Senator Manderson was at the war department this morning, and had a talk with General Schofield about the purchase of ground for new Fort Omaha. General Brooke has recommended the acceptance of the proposi-tion of Henry T. Clarke, and asks that in addition to the acquirement of this ground that an appropriation be made by congress for the purchase of enough additional ground to make altogether 900 acres. This, he says, will afford ample room for a rifle range, and there will be excellent dramage. He states it is the only tract of land of the numerous pieces offered which is acceptable for the purpose General Crook indorses the recommendation, and General Schefield also believes that the purchases should be made as recommended by Brooks. General Manderson says it will be necessary to secure a further appropria-tion, and that until congress provides more

noney there will be no purchase made. He will make an effort to secure the additional appropriation at this session of congress. If he falls, he will push it at the first session of the next congress. General Schoffeld fully coincides in the recommendations once made by General Scheridan, and says there is need of making Fort Omaha first-class in every respect. General Schoffeld is delighted at the success of the Omaha post-office building bill as a will circum additional control of the control of the omaha post-office building bill as a will circum an additional control of the omaha post-office building bill as a will circum an additional control of the omaha post-office building bill as a will circum an additional control of the omaha post-office building bill as a will circum an additional control of the omaha post-office building bill as a will circum an additional control of the omaha post-office building bill as a will circum an additional control of the omaha post-office building bill as a will be control of the omaha post-office building bill as a control o office building bill, as it will give an addi-tional building for the headquarters of the army. He says that it emphasizes the needs of a better site and building for Fort Omaha.
THE DES MOINES RIVER LAND BILL.

The president has again an opportunity to do justice to the people of lowa. Two years years ago he vetoed the act to quiet the title of settlers on the Des Moines river lands, but it was claimed at the time that he did not understand the situation and misjudged the case, It is reported that during the present congress he has given an assurance that he will sign the bill if it reaches him, and upon that assurance it passed the house of representatives in December last. To-day t went through the senate and will be in the president's hands before to morrow night. The act as passed differs only in one particuar from that which was vetoed. The title to the lands in question is given only to the original settlers or their heirs, and not to their assigns, as the former bill provided. In other, words, if a man shall have sold his homestead in the Des Moines river valley, the purchaser is not protected by this bill, but if he should still hold it, or if it shall have been inherited by his natural heirs, his title is good. I asked Senator Wilson to-day if he thought the president would sign the "I do not know." he said, "whether he will or not. I do not know that he has given any assurance, but I know that we shall exhaust every opportunity to make the justice of the measure clear to his mind, and he wall at least understand the bill before he acts

upon it. MONEY FOR MILITARY BUILDINGS. MONEY FOR MILITARY BUILDINGS.

Congress last session, through an amendment put upon the sundry civil appropriation bill, made an appropriation of \$30,000 for the completion of the buildings at Fort Rebinson. and a like amount for Fort Niobrara. Sen-ator Paddock, a few days since received a a letter from Fort Robinson, informing him that the officer in command at that post had been notified that \$20,000 of this special appropriation had been diverted to some other use. The senator immediately introduced an amendment to the sundry civil appropriation bill, now pending, for a new appropriation of \$30,000 for Fort Robinson, which was referred to the committee on military affairs. Senators Manderson and Paddock had an interview with the quartermaster general, and learn from him that the special appropriation of last year had been withheld because the phrase "comple-tion of the work of constructing the building," was used, instead of "continuing" the work, a phraseology adopted by the committee itself, which under a ruling of the second auditor of the treasury did not authorize any disbursement except to complete certain work, which was only a part of the plan of improvement at Fort Robinson, approved by the secretary of war, upon which the estimates made by him were based. A very fine spun technicality, but sufficient to prevent the presecution of the required work. Senator Manderson, immediately upon his re-turn to the senate, presented the subject to the committee on military affairs, of which he is a member, and secured authority to report at once Mr. Paddock's amendment and also another amendment of his own of a similar character for Fort Nio brara, which was left in the same boat a Fort Robinson by the ruling of the auditor. Both amendments will undoubtedly be adopted by the committee on appropriations and undoubtedly they will be accepted by the house of representatives.

THE BAILWAY SERVICES.

Senator Paddock to-day introduced a bill exempting the railway service from the civil service law. It will likely be passed There is almost universal condemnation of the extension of the civil service laws over the railway mail service. Perry S. Heath.

Proposed Increase in Fortification

and Naval Appropriations. WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 .- The fortification and naval appropriation bills were submitted to the full senate committee on appropria tions to-day by the sub-committees charged with their examination. The appropriations in the fortification bill were increased as fol lows: Torpedos for harbor defenses, \$200,000; machine guns of American manufacture, \$20,000; caissons and battery wagons, \$43, 274; for conducting annual heavy artillery practice, \$20,000. A provision was in serted that all moneys shall be disbursed by the board of ordnance and fortifications created last year, and it is made imperative on the board to buy only American-made material. The steel forgings and gun carriage appropriations amount to nearly \$300,000.

Heavy additions were made to the nava or cruisers is provided for to be of from 800 to 1,200 tons displacement, and to cost not more than \$700,000; also one steel cruiser of 2,000 tons displacement, to cost \$700,000. An appropriation is also made for one ram for harbor defense in accordance with the plans prepared by the naval advisory board In order that these vessels may b speedily built, the appropriation for steel machinery is increased by \$1.500,000, and that for armament \$1,400,000. The new ves-sels are to be lighted by electricity, and \$60,-000 is appropriated for that purpose.

LIVE STOCK RATES.

The Weighing System Ordered Discontinued in Kansas. CHICAGO, Feb. 8.-[Special Telegram to THE BEE. |- The new method of charging for live stock by the hundred pounds instead of for car loads, inaugurated by the western roads January 1, has proved an expensive experiment. The action of the Kansas rail road commission, ordering the roads in that state to charge by the car load as formerly, will compel the abandonment of the scheme. A meeting of managers will be held here Tuesday to see how they can save at least a portion of their plan. Meantime orders were ssued last evening to agents that rates at all Kansas points must be made in accord with the commissions ruling. While this does not compel roads to stop weighing at Kansas City and other points east of the Missouri river, yet the fact that the Missouri Pacific and St. Louis & San Francisco reads run from Kansas points to St. Louis south of Kansas City, and consequently cannot have their cattle weighed at Kansas City, necessi tates the discontinuance of the new sche as far east as St. Louis. An effort will made, however, to continue it east of St Louis and between Omaha and Chicago.

E. S. Wilson, members of the state board of live stock commissioners, who were in town to-day, were interviewed to-day concerning the local inspection bills that have been introduced in the various legislatures now in They say that at a meeting of the board held in Springfield yesterday the resolutions were discussed at length. While no

The Local Inspection Matter.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8 .- Hiram McChesney and

action was taken, the commissioners declare that it was the sentiment of the board that if any local inspection bill should pass providing that no meat should be sold until the animal from which it was taken shall first have been inspected alive within the state enacting the law, that rejected cattle from such state will be shipped to Chicago, as no provision is made for killing rejected animals in any of the pending bills: and it such should be the case. Illinois will take such steps-either quarantine or inspection at the state line-as will protect this state.

Legitime Recognized as President. NEW YORK, Feb. 8.-Minister Preston reeived a dispatch from the Haytien legation this morning, saying that the British and French governments have officially recogfized General Legitime as president of Haytlen republic. The minister says that the aunouncement will greatly assist in restoring order in Hayti.

RUCKER SLAPS AN EDITOR. An Affair Which is Liable to Lead to Serious Trouble.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. S.—[Special Telegram to The Her.]—The greatest-local sensation this city has had for many months occurred early this morning, and which but for the prompt interference of friends would have probably resulted seriously. At 1:30 this morning Colonel John -Arkins, manager of the News; Senator-elect Wolcott and Chief of Police Brady were standing at the bar in Jones' saloon, on Curtis street, when Judge Rucker entered, and, walking without a word up to Mr. Arkins, struck him in the face with the pann of his hand, For a moment Mr. Arkins seemed to be stricken dumb with amazement, and while he was recovering himself Judge Rucker backed off and put his hand on his revolver. At this point Chief Brady felt called upon to arrest Judge Rucker, and after disarming him marched his distinguished prisoner over to the patrol box at the corner of Sixteenth and Curtis streets, and called the patrol wagon. Judge Rucker, whose name has be-come famous throughout the country from his recent tilt with Senator Blackburg, was put in the "hurry up" wagon and taken to the city jail and locked up on a charge of carrying concealed weapons and creating a disturbance. He refused any attempt to se-cure bail and remained in his cell until 3 o'clock this morning, when he was released. At 9 o'clock he was brought before a justice of the peace and fined \$16 and costs on the

two charges.

The little "scrap" this morning grew out of the once famous Blackburn-Rucker duel imbroglio. While this long-winded affair was in progress John Arkins made a visit to New York City. While there he told a reporter that Judge Rucker wouldn't fight; that he was not of fighting slock, or words to that effect. To this Judge Rucker replied that Arkins was neither a gentleman, scholar, nor a democrat, and he publicly sa at that time that he would settle with Arkins when he was through with Blackburn. It is thought that further trouble will result over the affair.

LE CARON'S EXAMINATION.

He Was a Soy for Three, Years for

Nothing. London, Feb. 8.-The cross-examination of Le Caron was continued before the Parnell commission to-day. The court room was overcrowded. Parnell was not present. Le Caron said that during the last fortnight he had got documents relating to the case from Ander son, an official of the home office, who at his private residence allowed witness to see the whole of the latter's correspondence with the home office. During the first three years of his services as spy he received no payment from the covernment. At present he was receiving only part of his pay. Witness said he practiced medicine, kept a drug store and had be come rich. He had held a high military office in the brotherhood but never an executive office. Brady of Philadelphia was now at the head of the executive office. Sir Charles Russell asked that that the let-

ters to the government be produced.

The witness asked: "Do you wish to risk men's lives! Sir Charles replied: "The judges will see

the letters first and they will decide whether the names shall be published." The witness said that on the occasion of Parnell's only public visit to America, in 1880, the demonstrations were exclusively in the hands of the revolutionary party. Members of congress were connected

with the revolutionary party.
"Would it be correct to say that Parnell's reception showed that he had the sympathy of Americans as well as the Irish?" asked Sir Charles Russell.
"It would," responded the witness. Sir Charles asked to be permitted to in-spect the documents sent by the witness

inder cover. Sir Henry James and Mr. Reid, in the in erests of third par ies, opposed the applica-The court decided that Sir Charles Rus ell, for Parnellites, and Sir Henry James,

for the Times, should consult together as to which documents might be inspected. Don't Know Le Caron.

LONDON, Feb. 8.-Sexton, lord mayor of Dublin, telegraphs: "I have no memory of ever meeting Le Caron. His story connecting me with Brennan's departure is an absolute fabrication."

DIECKMANN'S DEFALCATION Causes a Stampede Among St. Louis

Commission Men. Sr. Louis, Mo., Feb. 8.-The flight of Henry Dieckmann, president of the Mauntel-Borgis Milling company, to Canada, continues to be the chief topic of conversation in commercial circles. The amount of his defalcation is estimated at from \$50,000 upwards, but the exact figures are not obtainable. The heaviest loser will be his mother-in-law, Mrs. Meyers, of whose estate he has been trustee for several years. For the past three years Dieckmann has been a familiar figure at the Morchants' Exchange, and has gained the reputation of a bold speculator. The attachment suit against him by Mrs. Meyers was the first intimation of anything wrong in his finances. As soon as this was known there was a general stampede among the commis sion men to see whether or not Dieckmann was their debtor. It was found that his transactions had been much larger than sup-posed, and that he had dealings with nearly every firm on the board, as well as with some Chicago houses. It is now believed that his reason for so widely distributing his orders was to conceal the extent of his deal? ings. An examination of the books of the different firms discloses the fact that on the whole he has been a most unfortunate speculator, his good investments being invariably followed by bad ones. Scarcely a single acount shows him to be anything out a loser. Dieckmann leaves an invalid wife and three children, the eldest but seven years of age.

Molloy on Trial For Perjury. London, Feb. 8.—Patrick Mallov was charged at the Row street police court to-day with committing perjury in his testimony before the Parnell commission Charles Matthews is counsel for the Times. The prosecutor stated that Molloy had tricked the Dublin solicitor for the Times by revelations concerning the Fenian brother hood and Invincibles. Molloy afterwards denied before the commission that he was either a Fenian or Invincible. The prosecu-tion ascertained that Molloy had been both, and they had evidence to prove perjury. Patrick Delaney, who was sentenced to death for complicity in the Phoenix park murder, his sentence after-ward being commuted to life imprisonment, testified that Molloy was an Joyneible. He testified that Molloy was an Invincible. He also connected Molloy with the party formed in 1882 to murder Chief Secretary Forster. Molloy also assisted in the plot to murder Justice Lawson, Crown Solicitor Anderson and tweive Dublin jurymen, who gave a verdict of guilty against the Fenian Frank Hynes.

Uniform Freight Classification. CHICAGO, Feb. 8.-The committee ap pointed to arrange a uniform freight classifi cation for use by all railroads in the United

States completed to-day the rules that are to

govern the proposed system. The more diffi-

cult task of grouping all articles in a manner that will be satisfactory to every section re-

mains to be performed, and several months

A Runaway Fatality. Sr. Louis, Feb. 8.—This afternoon a fire engine going to a fire frightened a horse hitched to a wagon, and Mr. Ward, the owner, was thrown from the wagon and probably fatally injured. Maggie Brown, aged six years, was run over and instantly killed. Charles Hallis and Miss Annie Mc-

THE BILLINGS MURDER CASE

It Comes Up Before the Iowa Supreme Court.

RAILROAD MEN IN CONFERENCE.

The Commissioners Asked to Revise the Schedale Now in Force-A Victory That Gives Little Satisfaction.

His Last Chance.

DES MOINES, ia., Feb. S.-[Special Telegram to THE BEE. | - The celebrated Billings murder case is now before the supreme court. Billings, who was convicted of the murder of Kingsley, at Waverly, and sentenced to the penitentiary for life, is here in prison to plead his own case for a new trial. He has not been heard yet. His attorney opened the argument in his behalf this afternoon. It is possible that Billings may speak to-morrow, though his case is well prosecuted by his attorney. Billings' appearance has been changed somewhat by his imprison-ment. His face has been shaved, though his hair allowed to grow, and a stranger would take him for some country preacher, instead of a murderer sentenced to prison for life. He takes his meals at a botel in charge of a warden of the penitentiary, and spends his nights in the county jail. He seems to feel confident that he will get a new trial,

They Are Sorry They Won. DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 8 .- [Special Tele-

gram to THE BEE.]-The supreme court tolay decided a case involving the validity of paving contracts in this city, which is of very serious import. It is incidentally remarkable for the fact that while nominally a victory for the petitioners, it denies what they wanted and grants what they didn't want. They appealed to the court to restrain the city from levying an old two mill tax for intersections of paving and other purposes, when, by a new law, the cost of intersections is charged direct to the property owners. The supreme court holds that the two-mill levy is all right, but that the whole paving is illegal on a technicality, namely, that when advertising for bids for paving the city council did not specify which particular kind of paving would be used. So it overthrows and declares void all the assessments for all the paving done in Des Moines in 1886, 1887 and 1888, including several miles of paving valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. Under this ruling not only those who have not yet paid for their paying are exempt, but those who have said without a waiver can bring suit to recover what they paid, or have the paving taken up. Public indignation runs high against the court for using a technicalty of that kind to cause so much trouble

They Want the Rates Revised.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 8 .- | Special Telerram to THE HEE. |-The railroad commisioners' office is now the meeca for the leadng railread men of the west. President Marvin Hughitt, General Freight Agent McCullough, General Counsel Gandy, of the Chicago & Northwestern, and President Fish, General Manager Jeffreys and Traffic Manager Tucker, of the Illinois Central, met there this afternoon for a private confer ence with the commissioners. They stated that they were willing to put the commisthat they were willing to put the commis-sioners' rates in force, but they believed they are too low, and hoped for a revision and a raising. When the commissioners put out their schedule of November 3, they adopted the western classification in adopted the western classification place of the Illinois, and thought that by doing they were giving the roads an advantage of about 15 per cent raise. But actual demonstration has shown that the difference between the two forms of classification really amounts to not more than 2 per cent. The roads are now asking for a revision that will raise the rates more than that, and the commissioners intimate that they may give it. Meantime the roads will enforce the chedule of June 28, substituting the western for the Illinois classification. The conference lasted for some time and the commis-

without reaching any decision. The Brown Trial.

sioners took the matter under advisement

Mason City, Ia., Feb. 8.-[Special Telegram to THE BEE. - A sigh of relief goes up from the community at the announcement that the famous Brown trial has almost reached a conclusion, whether the vernict of the fury will accord with the public sentiment or not. The unfortunate woman has passed through a terrible ordeat, but through t all she has remained calm and cool. Upon the result scatiment is much divided, but a great many are of the opinion that she is guilty of committing the crime, but that the evidence has not had sufficient evidence to prove it. Lawyers Markley and Weich have to-morrow John Cliggitt closes for the defense and will be followed by J. J. Clark for the state. The case must go to the jury tomorrow, as he opens court in Bremer county

A Maniac's Deed.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Ia., Feb. 8 .- [Special Telegram to THE BEE. |- A German by the name of Ferdinand Bever, who has for some time been suspected of being insane, left the house a few evenings ago and did not return. Some time in the night Mrs. Beyer thought she heard her husband call, and at the same time she discovered the house to be on fire. She alarmed the family, and Charles, the oldest boy, opened the door, and, discovering the barn on fire, he ran to the barn in his night clothes, thinking he might save the horses, but found the horses had been taken out and tied to some trees near by. Nearly everything in both houses and the barn was burned, leaving the family destitute. A search was made. ing the family destitute. A search was made, and Beyer was found hanging to a tree.

The Supreme Court.

DES MOTNES, Ia., Feb. S .- [Special Telegram to THE BEE.]-The supreme court filed but two opinions to-day. In the first, that of J. M. Coggeshall and others, appellants, against the city of Des Moines, the judgment of the lower court is affirmed as to the levy of a 2 mill tax to pay intersection bonds, and reversed as to special assessments against real estate for paying. In the second, Mary Gilbertson vs. Nels Gilbertson, Emmett district, the lower court is affirmed. The oral argument in the Kennedy murder case, from Dulman. from Dubuque, occupied the forencon session

A Postoflice Hobbed. MASON CITY, In., Feb. 8.—[Special Tele-gram to THE BEE.]—The postoffice at Portland was burglarized last night and quite a

sum of money stolen. The thieves effected an entrance through the floor under the office. A private dwelling was also pillaged. A London Theatre Fire. LONDON, Feb. 8, -The T catre Aldershot was burned to the ground to night. The

performance was in progress when the fire broke out, and the audience became panic-stricken, and a mad rush for the doors ensued. In the struggle many persons were trampled upon and injured, and there were a number of narrow escapes from death Perforated the Celestials.

HELENA, Mont., Feb. 8.-On Wednesday night, at Phillipsburg, Deputy Sheriffs Opp and Fieldgill raided the store of Him Lee, which was used by the Chinese as an opium The Chinese ascertained that no warrant had been issued and attacked the dep-uty sheriffs with knives. They fired into the crowd. Tou Pie was killed and Him Ginnis were run over and seriously injured. Lee and Ai Lee seriously wounded.