THE MAXIMUM TARIFF BILL.

Judge Mason's Argument Before the Nebraska Legislature.

WHY HE OPPOSES THE MEASURE.

He Thinks Good Nature and a Flexible System of Rates the True Solution of the Railroad Problem.

Judge Mason's Address.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 14.—[Special to THE BEE.]—In response to the invitation of the house, Judge Mason, member of the railroad commission, appeared and spoke as follows:

"I am not in favor of the maximum tariff bill proposed by Mr. Hall. I believe the law already on the statute books is amply sufficient to protect the people of Nebraska from railroad extortion. What is needed is the efficient administration of that law. Maximum rate laws have everywhere proved a failure. The Potter law in Wisconsin and the Granger laws in Iowa would not stand the test of time, and they were repealed. But there are decided merits in the Hall bill, and if I were compelled to choose between the present rates and the present classification and the rates and classification proposed by the Hall bill, I would take the maximum tariff. But if you adopt the maximum tariff the railroads, to get revenge, will increase their through rates, and make the people of the state howl.

"Ninty per cent of the business of Nebraska is through traffic, over which the legislature of this state has no control. I am in favor of allowing the railroads to collect extortionate rates on the local traffic, if by that means we can secure a cheap long haul to distant markets.

"One feature of the Hall bill is worthy of special notice. At present the rate from Chicago to Omaha on a certain class of freight is 30 cents per hundred, and from Omaha to Grand Island 29 cents. Now, the rate from Chicago to Grand Island is only 50 cents, which is a discrimination of 9 cents per hundred against the wholesale dealer in Omaha. The same discriminations prevail between Chicago and other Nebraska points, and that city can successfully compete with wholesale dealers in this state by reason of these facts. The Hall bill will remedy this; and it will do more. It will give a decided advantage to the wholesale dealers of Nebraska, but I am not in favor of going to either extreme.

"It is impossible to say just what would be a fair rate at all times, because conditions change. What would be a just and reasonable rate to-day might be an extortionate and oppressive tariff to-morrow. A system of flexible rates should be maintained, and the power should be placed in the hands of a commission able and willing to protect the people from discrimination and extortion. I believe the through rates from Nebraska points are too high and should be lowered, and I base this statement on a careful comparison of the rates that prevail in other states, taking the volume of business and every other item in consideration. The Chicago, Burlington & Northern, a fairly profitable road, transports grain from St. Paul to Chicago, a distance of nearly five hundred miles, for 7 cents per hundred, and shipments are made from Chicago to Dakota points at much less rates than are charged from that city to points in Nebraska.

"My policy is to hold the power of the commission to fix rates over the heads of the railroads as a club, and tell them that if they will give us reasonable through rates we will not interfere with local traffic; but if they do not, we will cut the rates on those shipments to the lowest figure."

Hall asked if the present rates in force in Nebraska are reasonable and just.

Judge Mason—No, I don't think they are. The rates on cattle, hogs, sheep, coal, lumber and hay, should be lowered 20 per cent. I am not in favor of cutting down the tariff on classes 2, 3, 4 and 5, in which groceries are included, for this will only benefit the wholesale merchants and not the consumers.

Hall again asked: "If your board consider the rates on stock and the other articles you mentioned too high, why don't you lower them?"

Judge Mason—Experience has taught me that more good can be accomplished by working in harmony, and by mutual agreement than by brute force. We have endeavored to get along with the railroads with as little friction as possible. If we can persuade the railroad managers to adopt our suggestions and recommendations, we would much prefer that they should do so rather than to force our rates upon them. I think this policy is better for the body politic, that we should all keep good natured and work together in solving the railroad problems.

Cady wanted to know how he knew the prevailing rates were too high on the articles mentioned.

Judge Mason—By comparing the rates that prevail on the same classes in other states under similar conditions.

Johnson of Phelps—You say that rates are excessively high now. What is the prospect of the people receiving any relief from railroad extortion?

Judge Mason—Well, the railroads have cut rates and then we just stand by and look on. I don't think it is so important, as I said before, that local rates should be very much lower at present. Give us cheap through rates and the people ought to be satisfied.

Johnson—Did you not adopt rates making a radical reduction, and afterwards reconsider it?

Judge Mason—Well, on July 5 we adopted a formula in force in every western state except Kansas, and submitted it to the railroads and they declined to adopt it. We met and found that if it were put in force the rates on classes C, D and E would be increased, and for this reason we did not insist upon it.

Whitehead—What effect do you think the passage of this bill will have upon the building of new lines?

Judge Mason—None whatever. That argument is too transparent to require any consideration. Wherever a railroad is needed it will be built, and where the business will not support a road it is adding a needless burden to the people to construct a line. You can have too many railroads as well as not enough. No, there is nothing in that argument.

Cady—What rates would you regard as remunerative?

Judge Mason—That is a problem. Some railroads are capitalized at $110,000 per mile, and such roads can be paralleled for, say, $15,000 per mile. In my judgment the per cent of profit should be based on the amount it would require to duplicate the line, and not on the fictitious value.

Rayner—If we should adopt the maximum tariff bill, will it have a tendency to decrease the earnings of the railroads, and if so, how much?

Judge Mason—The enactment of this measure would certainly increase the business of the roads and, I think, of the receipts also. It is not the extortionate rates that fill the coffers of the railroads, but the volume of business.

Corbin—Do you think our roads can haul our products as cheaply as the Chicago, Burlington & Northern?

Judge Mason—I see no reason why they should not.

Cady—Do you take the capitalization of the roads in confederation?

Judge Mason—I take into consideration the amount it would cost to duplicate the lines, but not the watered stock. Neither, by the way, do I consider the fact the Union Pacific received donations in lands and bonds and other securities sufficient to build three such lines. [Laughter.]

Keiper—In your report here you say in a certain place that 46 cents per 100 would be a fair rate, and I find the tariff is 63 cents. Is not that extortion?

Judge Mason—Yes, it looks like that, but I will examine it fully and see if the right comparison is made.

Seed—In case this maximum tariff bill should pass, would not the commission still have power to lower the rates so established?

Judge Mason—Yes, if the bill so stated; but they would have no power to increase the rates.

Seed—We don't want them increased. They are high enough now.

Judge Mason was listened to with the liveliest interest by all the members of the house, and at the close of his remarks a vote of thanks was tendered him.

The Experimental Farm.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 14.—[Special to THE BEE.]—A joint meeting of the senate and house investigating committees gave J. D. Courtney, foreman of the university farm a chance to tell what he know about that institution, mingled with opinions of Dr. Billings and hog cholera.

It appeared that there are thirty-three cattle, sixty-five hogs and fifteen horses on the farm, which gives employment to six or seven men. The receipts from farm products are estimated at $800 to $1,000 a year, and Treasurer Dales, at a former meeting, said the annual loss of running the farm was $2,500. The money from the sale of products is not turned in to any state fund, but by order of some of the officers, Courtney spends it in improvements. No report of such receipts and expenditures is published.

Mr. Courtney is a young man, but has spent all his life on a farm. He receives $63 a month, or $756 a year, for which he gives his whole time, manages five or six other employes, directs all farm operations, handles the funds, assists in making experiments, etc. That is all he gets, while several gentlemen with fat salaries from the university have drawn two-thirds as much for an all but nominal connection with the experiment station.

Asked to name some of the valuable results of the work and experimenting on the farm, Mr. Courtney was unable to do so. He had not kept the "field notes," which, it seems, was done by another salaried gentleman known as "the agriculturist." The foreman knew there had been experiments with grasses that were satisfactory. For example, alfalfa had been sown and had produced a yield averaging four tons to the acre at its first cutting. In pursuing the subject it was learned that only one-fourth of an acre had been planted with alfalfa and it was cultivated. In the line of grains, the experiments had not been satisfactory for the reason, Mr. Courtney explained, that the learned professor in charge had sown the seed too thick. Three or four kinds of wheat were tried, about two sixty-foot rows of each. Mr. Courtney admitted that this was hardly a fair basis for judging of results in large farming operations. In his opinion only about ten of the 320 acres in the farm had been used for experimenting.

Mr. Courtney has unbounded confidence in Dr. Billings and his cholera cure. He believed the other university people in any way connected with the farm were firm believers in the "hog professor," as Billings is jocularly called—that is, all but Prof. Wing. This gentleman had charge of the farm until last July, and refused to let Billings inoculate the swine. The foreman thought the antipathy was personal, however.

Submission Bill's Constitutionality.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE]—The supreme court will take up the submission question, as indicated by Dempster's house resolution, and will hear and determine upon the constitutionality of dual submission on next Wednesday. Briefs will be submitted and the hearing will be of regular order in every respect.

Senator Cornell, whose constitutional amendment for the investment of the permanent school fund was defeated yesterday, introduced a resolution this morning asking the judiciary committee to frame such a measure. The senate spent the whole morning threshing old straw, and finally tabled the resolution.

In the house the insurance bills were all reported without recommendation and placed on the general file. An effort to make them a special order for 10:30 to-morrow failed.

Dempster offered a resolution requesting Attorney General Leese to appear at the hearing on Wednesday, February 20, and argue in favor of the constitutionality of the submission bill. The resolution was adopted.

Gilbert's usury bill came up and was ordered engrossed by a vote of 43 to 38.

By request of the house Judge Mason appeared and spoke upon the railroad question. He opposed Hall's maximum tariff bill on the ground that the commission had full power to regulate the matter and that a reduction of local rates would have a tendency to increase through rates. An effort was made to get the Westover bill to provide for reassessment of certain railroad taxes back to the judiciary committee in accordance with a request of the B. & M. railroad, but it failed.

Among the bills introduced to-day was one by O'Brien limiting the number of insurance agents of each company to one for any town or city.

Senate.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 14.—[Special to THE BEE.]—For the third time the senate had a pitched battle over the proposition to enlarge the means of investing the state's permanent school fund. Senator Cornell is a fighter who doesn't seem to know when he is whipped. He met his second Bull Run this morning over the following resolution:

Whereas, According to the published report of the state treasurer to the governor of the state, there were balances in the state treasury on the following dates, each in amounts as follows:

November 30, 1885, $610,707.74; November 30, 1886, $944,352.76; November 30, 1887, $1,335,122.95; November 30, 1888, $936,293.72, an amount out of all proportion to meet the requirements of the state, and

Whereas, This large cash surplus is earning not one cent of revenue to the state of Nebraska, but is loaned to private individuals and corporations for private gain, and

Whereas, The now outstanding school land sale contracts in the amount of $3,953,293.41, which can be paid into said state treasury at any time increasing said cash balance to an almost fabulous amount, and

Whereas, The policy of all safe, judicious business (commonwealth as well as individual), is to find safe investment whereby said surplus can be invested, and

Whereas, There is now nearly $1,000,000 of school district bonds of the districts of this state held by the money loaners of the east, the interest on which, $70,000, we are sending east annually, which is a total loss to the state, and

Whereas, It has been asserted on this floor that our school districts bonds have been rejected at the money centers of the east, also that our school bond laws were defective to such an extent that almost any school district could successfully repudiate its obligations, and

Whereas, The present safeguards against the accumulation of this large surplus are not sufficient means for its safe investment; therefore

Resolved, That the judiciary committee of the senate are hereby instructed to frame and present to this body such form of constitutional amendment as will permit the judicious investment of this surplus; also that said judiciary committee be instructed to frame and present such amendments to the statutes, as, in their judgment, will insure the safe investment of state funds in school district bonds, to the end that that the overburdened treasury may be relieved, and the money turned to earning an income for the state, thereby turning back to the taxpayers the hundreds of thousands in interest money annually paid to eastern investors.

Several senators thought the preamble reflected on the state treasurer and would spread a bad impression abroad. They urged a very short substitute without a sting. Other senators then thought the tail of the resolution needed shortening. These several propositions were fought over inch by inch, and after consuming the entire morning the resolution was tabled. There are threats of bringing it up again.

Senator Hoover offered a resolution calling on the secretary of state for the number and cost of the telephones in the state institutions. Laid over.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Senator Funck threw a bomb shell into the camp by offering a resolution directing the committee on public lands and buildings to prepare a bill for the removal of the Home for the Friendless to the experimental farm. The resolution recited that the home needs enlarging and the adjoining land is very expensive. The resolution called for the sale of the present home and the use of ten acres of the farm.

Senator Raymond was up in arms at once, and laid stress upon the inconvenience and cost of removing the home. He said the lots adjoining the institution could be bought for $6,000, which he thought not exorbitant.

Senator Funck said the ladies in charge of the home had a chance to sell it, and they would like to go out to the farm where the children would have room to turn around.

Senator Connor said the farm was obtained from the general government for experimental purposes, and he doubted if it could be diverted from that purpose.

Senator Ransom believed the state could sell a part of the farm without breach of faith, and could as well take ten of the 320 acres for a state institution. The owners of the land adjoining the home are holding it at a high price, knowing it must be had by the state. They have not been able to raise anything on the farm heretofore, and maybe the ladies could raise the children out there.

Senator Howe urged the senate to make haste slowly. He did not believe the state could divert the farm from agricultural uses or experiments. Then there was the danger of Dr. Billings inoculating the children for hog cholera.

Senator Cornell expressed the opinion that the conditions imposed by the national government would not be violated by the planting of the home on the farm. The result would be baby farming, and it would be more or less experimental, too. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 15 to 10.

The committee of the whole took up Senator Paxton's bill, giving Nebraska's consent to the purchase or condemnation of a postoffice site in Omaha, and ceding jurisdiction thereover to the United states.

Senator Ransom suggested that a general act of this kind be passed, in order to do away with the necessity of a special act every time the government wants to build a postoffice in Nebraska.

The bill was passed over for a time.

An hour was spent filibustering on Howe's glass ballot box bill. Under the leadership of Ransom's fatal amendment, dilatory motions followed thick and fast, but the bill was approved in committee. When reported to the senate the fight to indefinitely postpone was begun, and to save it the house consented to have it recommended with a view to making it apply only to the larger cities.

Senator Linn's bill for taxing sleeping cars was recommended for passage.

House.

LINCOLN, Feb. 14.—[Special to THE BEE.]—House rolls 14, 88, 164, and senate file 3, all bills of a similar character, regulating insurance companies, were reported back from the committee on insurance without any recommendation. A motion to make a special order of these bills for 10:30 to-morrow was lost by 35 to 41.

Among the few bills introduced was one by O'Brien, of Douglas, to limit the number of insurance agents in a town or city to one for each company.

The Gilbert usury bill was called up and ordered to a third rerding by a vote of 43 to 38.

A communication was received from the supreme court stating that on Wednesday, February 20, at 2:30 p. m., a hearing would be given to both sides on the constitutionality of senate file 31, the submission bill.

A resolution introduced by Hampton was adopted, requesting Attorney General Leese to appear and file a brief in defense of the bill.

On motion of Hall, Judge O. P. Mason, a member of the railroad commission, was requested to address the house on the railroad problem.

A lively debate was precipitated over a motion by Baker to recommit to the judiciary committee house roll 46, a bill by Westover, providing for the reassessment of certain railroad land in Valley, Greely, Webster, Franklin and other counties.

Baker said the bill was requested to be sent back to save time; that the committee had not fully considered the measure, and as it involved a large amount of money, both sides should be heard.

Hall said the bill had been fully considered already, and this scheme was simply to delay its consideration.

Olmstead denied that he wore a railroad collar, but thought the company should be heard before the committee.

Hall declared that investigation of the merits of the bill revealed one of the most brazen and barefaced schemes ever devised by a corporation to escape paying its just dues, and was absolutely without a parallel in the history of the state.

Cady strongly opposed the commitment of the bill, and some hot cross-firing between him and Baker followed.

Hanna of Greely opposed committing the bill.

Hampton of Webster said that his own county and Franklin were both interested in the bill, and hoped the motion would be voted down and the bill remain on the general file.

Baker replied that the railroad company did not own a hair of his head, but it had requested to be heard in opposition to this bill, and the request in all justice should be granted.

The motion to recommit was lost by a large majority, and the house adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The house went into committee of the whole to consider bills on general file.

House roll 124, a bill by Hall, provides that at each election in cities or villages, the question of license or no license shall be submitted to the voters. If a majority vote for license, the city council or village board shall issue licenses to all who comply with the provisions of the statute, and if the majority vote no license, then the sale of intoxicating liquor shall be unlawful in city or village.

The bill was amended to make it necessary for the applicant to secure the written consent of each property holder adjoining the proposed location of the saloon, before a license shall issue.

O'Brien of Douglas moved an amendment exempting cities of the metropolitan class from the provisions of the bill.

Hall opposed the amendment and it was lost.

Delaney proposed an amendment exempting parties who own the building in which they propose to open a saloon.

The license is fixed at $500 for all villages under 2,000 inhabitants, and $1,000 for all cities of a larger size. Efforts were made to increase the license fees from $500 to $1,000 and from $1,000 to $2,500, but they were not successful.

The bill was reported back with the recommendation that it do pass.

A bill by Cushing, authorizing a judge to grant an injunction or restraining order, was formally reported.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Specht—To provide for the letting by contract for all printing or stationery used by the state of Nebraska, and all societies and institutions of the state where the bills for printing and stationery are to be paid for by the state.

By Mr. Corbin—To provide for the uniformity of text books for the public and common schools in the state of Nebraska.

The house enacting clause of the bill providing for a geological survey of the state was stricken out.

Legislative Notes.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 14.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Senator Ransom appeared before the house committee on insurance and explained the objections to his bill. White of Cass vigorously opposed the bill and insisted that such a measure would work untold injury to the business interests.

Much complaint is made by members and others on account of the condition of the wall of the house. The wind whistles through the building to the discomfiture of every one present.

Speaker Watson proposes to follow the precedent set by the house in making special orders by a majority vote. The decision of the speaker that it required a two-thirds vote to put the submission bill at the head of the general file having been overruled, the action in that case will be followed during the rest of the session, and as a consequence a bill, no matter what position it may occupy, may be taken up at any time by a majority vote.

The Morrissey Investigation.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The committee appointed to investigate Morrissey's charges of bribery put padlocks on their lips, but enough has leaked out to lead to the belief that the investigation will end in smoke. Two witnesses have been examined. Frank Morrissey learned of the alleged bribery by hearsay, and referred the committee to John Sahler, of Omaha, as his authority. When Sahler was put on the stand he developed a severe attack of "I don't recollect." Other witnesses could not be found with a subpœna and the committee talk of throwing up the investigation to-morrow in disgust.

The Assessor Bill Killed.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The judiciary committee to-night killed the bill introduced by Snyder providing for only one assessor for Douglas county.

Senate File No. 16.

LINCOLN, Feb. 14.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The governor this afternoon signed senate file 16, the bill permitting the consolidation of street railways.

What is more attractive than a pretty face with a fresh, bright complexion? For it use Pozzoni's Powder.

FROM THE KEYSTONE STATE.

Citizens Given to Nebraska By the Land of Penn

GATHER IN CHEERFUL REUNION.

A Pleasant Evening Full of Good Cheer, of Hilarity and Reminiscence—Sturdy Sons of a Sturdy Commonwealth.

The Penn Society.

"Oh, we fixed on to-night for our banquet because it was St. Valentine's day, and there is an old Pennsylvanian saying that the 14th of February is about one-half way through the winter. If you'd been here in '37 you'd have wished it was true. We lived on corn meal and sand those days, and used burnt corn for coffee."

So said a gray haired son of the Keystone state last night, as he looked over the crowded corridors of the Masonic hall, and answered a reporter's query as to why the Pennsylvanians had chosen that night as a fitting one on which to hold their first annual banquet in Omaha.

"It was a time when the speaker had to go 'heeled' in order to keep the members of the legislature in order, and I remember some of them got so noisy that they adjourned to meet in Florence. But that was some time after I left Pennsylvania," he added, and the reporter settled down to business.

The bill of fare was in marked contrast to the "corn meal and sand" diet spoken of, and all the delicacies of the season were offered to the Pennsylvanians of to-day who make Nebraska their home. Five hundred of them were present in response to the invitations issued by a society—the Pennsylvania society of Nebraska—that is but a few weeks old, and the enthusiasm displayed, as well as the successful manner in which the programme was carried out, proved that the bracing air of Nebraska had infused new life and vigor into the veins of those who had elected to become her sons. The tables were unable to accomodate all the guests at any one time, and again and again they were relaid only to be cleared out by the visitors. As each surrendered a seat, he found his way to the main hall, where the well-waxed floors, the brilliant lights, pretty partners and the "music of the band" enabled all to while the hours away, until at half past 10 the regular business of the evening—speech making—commenced. The speakers were limited to 5 minutes, and though the programme was somewhat lengthy, it was gone through in good shape, and at the close the guests left the hall fully satisfied that they all had spent a pleasant evening, that Pennsylvania was at one time the banner state of this union, and that she had gracefully surrendered that honor in favor of her younger sister—Nebraska.

The success of the banquet was altogether due to the committees on reception and introduction, and supper. On the former were Dr. O. S. Wood, W. G. Shriver, Samuel P. Brigham, Richard S. Berlin, W. F. Falis, Mesdames T. C. Bruner, J. F. Larimer, R. C. Robertson, W. F. Falis and Miss Lou Leisenring, and on the latter Joseph Redman, Dr. P. S. Leisenring, Charles Cumming, Dr. F. Swartzlander, Mrs. T. C. Brunner, Mrs. P. S. Leisenring, Mrs. H. J. Witman, Mrs. Joseph Redman, Mrs. Dr. F. Swartzlander, Mrs. Adam Elliott, Mrs. Alice Cummings, Mrs. M. P. Houck, Mrs. D. B. Houck, Mrs. John Maus, Mrs. H. Lingafelt, Mrs. James Snowden, Mrs. W. G. Shriver, Mrs. J. B. Bruner, Mrs. R. C. Patterson, Mrs. Dr. J. F. Larimer, Mrs. B. C. Smith, Mrs. O. P. Fenner, Mrs. J. W. Cross, Mrs. George Cracer, Mrs. N. A. Page.

R. C. Patterson was appointed toast master, and called upon T. C. Bruner, who opened the programme by apologizing for the absence of Senator Manderson, and then bidding a hearty welcome to those who had come to do honor the Keystone state.

Mayor Broatch followed in response to the toast "Omaha." He thought Pennsylvania was one of the best states in the union, not even barring his own native state, Connecticut, and referred to the old war times, when the ladies of Pennsylvania kept an open house at Camden for the benefit of soldiers who wore the blue, either singly, in regiments or brigades. He spoke of the Pennsylvania "Bucktails," a regiment that went into action the day after their term of service had expired, and left many a comrade cold in death, as an evidence that they were willing to die as they had fought, for the defense of their country.

Rev. John Gordon spoke of the "churches of our ancestors," and went back to the days when the meeting houses of Sharon, Beulah and Bethleham were the churches of the people. He told of the days when William Penn, with the streets of London for a meeting house, preached the truth, unpalatable as it may have been, to England's king, and then on the banks of the Delaware made a treaty with the Indians that never yet has been broken. The church of the Keystone state is still perpetuated, though the log meeting houses of the early days, have in many cases been supplemented by costlier edifices of marble and stone. He said there are no words in the English language more musical than the "thee" and the "thou" coming as they used to come in boyhood's days, from the placid faces onshrined in the gray satin bonnet.

William N. Nason brought up "Our Old Homes." In his memory was the picture of the little white cottage, the old school, the village with its public square, and that picture was one framed with pleasantest of recollections. The old village church with its highbacked seats was there too, and it, as well, was one of the memories that to him was sacred.

James C. Bruner spoke to the toast of "The Pennsylvania Dutch," and said the same was a misnomer. There were Pennsylvania Dutch in eastern Pennsylvania, but they had long since forgotten even to speak in the language of the Dutch. He spoke of Pennsylvania as it now is, one of the most picturesque, romantic and fruitful states in the union. It was in that state the first public school was founded under the rule of Governor Wolfe. In its number of colleges it stands among the first, and its medical colleges are recognized among the first in the land. Its merchants in many instances came from the country boys, who learned in their country homes the lessons of honesty that were the foundations of their successes. The Pennsylvania Dutch are known as lovers of the homes they so regret to leave, when about to venture for the first time on the uncertainties of the world. He spoke of the old Christmas days, New Year's eves, corn huskings and other similar social feast days, and then with a glowing peroration in favor of the Pennsylvania Dutch ladies, he advised the young men of to-day to seek among them for a help-meet if they were seriously considering an attempt to commit matrimony.

Mike Maul was down to respond to the toast of "The Ladies," but was unavoidably detained through illness—so the toast master said—and in his place W. I. Swope gave an excellent humorous recitation on the same subject.

"The Medical Profession" was the toast set apart for Dr. P. S. Leisenring. Few states had as many bright lights in that profession, as the Keystone state. Some of the most brilliant had passed away, but among the younger practitioners were names known in their specialties throughout the civilized world. It was Pennsylvania that first founded a hospital, and it was from her colleges came the graduates that even in Omaha are prescribing for the ills to which man is heir. May their shadows never grow less."

Majhr T. S. Clarkson talked of Pennsylvania in the war. It was a beautiful idea, this devotion to our birthplace. Who has not had his blood stirred at the name of the grand, great, staid, old state of Pennsylvania? In three days from the 15th of April, 1861, the five first companies were raised, and during the days of the rebellion the state had fed and cared for 1,120,000 men. Within her lines was fought one of the hardest battles of the war, and 18,000 of her sons lie in the only cemetery over consecrated in a northern state, with the blood of the brave who had died on the field which they sought to win, and in which they slept their final sleep.

Music followed, and after a short intermission H. H. Baldridge responded on behalf of the legal profession, J. R. Buchanan "For William Penn," S. P. Brigham "For Valley Forge," Paul Charlton, "The Blue Juniata," John Redman, "Early Life in Nebraska," Alexander McIntosh, "Our New Home," David Anderson, "South Omaha," and C. M. Jackson on "Hard Cider and Saur Kraut." Music again followed, and then ended one of the most pleasant evenings ever spent in Omaha.

THE BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION.

Steps Taken to Counteract Trades Union Legislation.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 14.—At the session of the National builders' convention to-day several papers were read by the members. A resolution was adopted declaring that, it having come to the knowledge of the board that strenuous efforts are being made on the part of labor unions in this and other states to have the conspiracy laws repealed, the delegates be urged to use their influence to see that the conspiracy laws be not tampered with.

Several resolutions reported by the committee on resolutions were acted upon. One, recommending the association to use its influence for the passage of laws making it a felony for any person or organization to prevent any American youth from learning any trade or handicraft he may desire, was adopted.

A vote of thanks was tendered by the convention to Congressman Butterworth for his defense of the rights of American citizens in the halls of congress. St. Paul was selected as the place for the next annual meeting on January 20, 1890, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Edward E. Scribner, St. Paul; first vice president, John J. Tucker, New York; second vice president, A. McAllister, Cleveland; secretary, William H. Sayward, Boston; treasurer, George Tappen, Chicago. A board of directors was also elected, among whom was Frank Clark, of Sioux City, Ia.

LEGITIME'S HARD ROW.

The Hayliens Losing Confidence in the Government.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Hayti, Feb. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Great efforts have been made by the authorities to inspire renewed confidence in the stability of the government, as the chance of raising any more money has disappeared. The news was given to the surprised inhabitants that General Anselme Prophete, the minister of war, had taken Hinche, Valliere, Eron, and even Fort Liberte. There was a battle on January 23 and Prophete was driven back with the loss of 150 men killed and 300 wounded. Every battle that the minister of war has taken part in has resulted disastrously to the cause of Legitime, his armies being defeated, and those who were not either killed, wounded or taken prisoner, deserted the ranks and fled to the woods.

General Piquant, minister of the interior, has become discouraged because of his futile attempts to reach Mount Rouis, and has sent strict orders here to shoot all volunteers who deserted from the army upon their return to Port-au-Prince. Piquant landed from Le Nouvelle Noldrogne, at Grand Salines, January 21, with 350 men, and had an encounter with the guard in charge of that military post. The thirty men held out for four hours, but were forced to retire. Their general, an old man named Colas, was taken prisoner and marched to the market place and shot. There is a feeling here that the landing of Piquant at Grand Salines will result disastrously to the cause of Legitime and hurry his downfall.

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS.

They Discuss the Question of Type-Setting Machines.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The principal paper read at the meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers' association yesterday, was a long treatise on typesetting machines by W. W. Parks. It was mainly statistical and favored the adoption of such machines in the composing rooms of newspapers. A general discussion of the paper followed. The convention held a secret session in the evening, at which the question was further discussed. Some of the more prominent members were opposed to the adoption of such machines on the ground that their use would ultimately so cheapen typesetting that the capital necessary for the establishment of newspapers would be so diminished as to materially open a field that has hitherto been narrowed by the necessary expense. It was held that on this account the great newspapers of the country should oppose the introduction of machines.

WORST OF THE SEASON.

A Terrible Blizzard Now Raging Throughout Canada.

MONTREAL, Feb. 14.—The blizzard which started in last night and is still raging is the worst so far this season. The snowfall has not been very heavy, but the wind has been terrific and the dry snow has been whirled into great drifts, making travel exceedingly difficult in cities and in outlying districts it is totally out of the question. Railroad travel is thoroughly demoralized. Outgoing trains are cancelled and incoming ones are hid away in snow drifts somewhere, some of them having been reported and others not. Several people are reported frozen to death.

An Improved Grain Movement.

BURLINGTON, Ia., Feb. 14.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The grain of the west and southwest held in reserve for months, to the great detriment of all lines of trade, is moving to market now with unprecedented rapidity. Hundreds of cars of grain and ice are and for a week past have been, received here daily. All the ice is shipped from Burlington, via the St. Louis, Keokuk & Northwestern, to Hannibal, and thence to St. Louis. Chicago gets the greater part of the grain, and a part goes to Peoria and St. Louis. The increase of business on the St. Louis, Keokuk & Northwestern has taxed the capacity of the road to the utmost, and a dozen extra crews have been sent from this city for duty there.

Their Intentions are Honorable.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—It is said at the state department that there is not the slightest wish on the part of the president or Secretary Bayard to embarrass the incoming administration with respect to the Samoan policy. It is not at all likely that the present administration will arrogate to itself the selection of an American representative at the proposed conference at Berlin, or that it will take any steps whatever that might tend to commit the administration.

A Very Small Dividend.

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—At a meeting of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad directors this afternoon a dividend of 1 per cent was declared.

Death of George Hoffman.

George Hoffman died at midnight last night at the corner of Twelveth and Williams streets. The funeral will occur Sunday.

A Boy's Heroic Act.

Shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon a party of boys were skating on the river near the mouth of Indian creek, says the Beatrice Express. One lad, a little more venturesome than the the others, undertook to skate across some thin ice at the mouth of the creek and broke through. He pluckily held on to the edge of the ice but would have gone under in a few moments but for the heroism and presence of mind of young Lester Hewitt, son of H. A. Hewitt, engineer of the waterworks. Young Hewitt saw his companion's danger, and being an expert skater, prepared himself for a big spurt across the treacherous ice, grasping the unfortunate boy's hand as he passed him and pulled him out on the stronger ice, thereby saving him from an almost inevitable drowning. The thin ice bent dangerously under their united weight, but before it could give way they had reached a place of safety.

Furnished house for rent in Park Terrace, opposite Hanscom park, all modern conveniences. Inquire Lee & Nichol, 28th and Leavenworth.

MRS. HARRISON'S GOWNS.

Magnificent Toilets Just Completed for the New First Lady.

Ah, but they are beautiful! And all in such perfect taste, too.

If our coming first lady is as wise in all things as the choice of her gowns, what a lucky people we shall be! exclaims the New York Morning Journal.

The little lady has held to her principles regarding low-cut corsages.

"Such a shame, too!" said one of Ghormley's pretty drapers, "for she has the loveliest neck and arms you ever saw; as white and smooth as a girl's."

The great dress, which will probably be worn at the inauguration, is of pearl-white brocade, made with a long train, the front of almost solid gold embroidery. The corsage opens a little at the throat and shows a full ruche of real old point. The sleeves reach the elbow.

A wide sash of heavy silk is passed round the waist and knotted loosely on the left side, falling to the bottom of the skirt, where it ends in broad gold fringe.

A magnificent French reception dress is of gray silk made with demi-train and draped with the finest of Marquise lace. A sash of the same lace is passed over the corsage up to the shoulder. This dress is elegant in its simplicity, the materials being of the very finest. This, too is made to open just a little at the throat, and has at least a half-sleeve.

A Greek dinner dress is a creation at once unique and beautiful. The material is of the heaviest Nile-green moire. It is made with a moderately long train. The corsage is cut square in the neck, but not low, and finished with a Grecian border. The sleeves are of true Oriental design, and finished in the same way. Around the lower part of the Empire waist a heavy cord is passed, knotted carelessly on the side. It falls to the bottom of the skirt, where it ends in heavy tassels. It is presumable that with this dress the hair will be worn in a Grecian coiffure, bound about with the traditional Roman band.

A beautiful house dress is made of the heaviest armure cloth, in black silk and wool. The long, straight overgarment which is of the most exquisite design and finish, is heavily embroidered in black silk, the outlines of the pattern being traced in gold. This dress is perfectly plain, falling straight to the feet without a particle of drapery, opening just a little at the side to show a panel heavy with hand embroidery.

A house dress is made with a plain redingote, in cigar brown, the material being some heavy Persian fabric in wool. This garment opens in front to show a vest and petticoat, of the color called in France cafe au lait which is covered with hand-embroidery in colors. The sleeves of the over-garment nearly reach the wrist and are finished in wide cuffs of dark blue plush. The wide revers and pocket laps are of the same material. This elegant costume is finished with immense buttons of smoked pearl.

Another costume, d'Interieur, is of white, in the most severe Greek style. The costume falls from the shoulders, plain to the edge of the short train. It is fitted with plaits at the back, and under the arms is confined at the waist by embroidered pearl bands. Around the neck is a Grecian handkerchief fastened with a pearl ornament, while the long Greek sleeves fall from the shoulder straight to the hem of the skirt, being open all the way up on one side, underneath which is a close-fitting sleeve reaching to the wrist.

There is a handsome costume of black velvet, made walking length. It is high at the throat, the sleeves reaching the wrist, the skirt of which is draped with a netted material of almost solid jet.

A beautiful dress of brown silk is profusely trimmed with ornaments in silk braid, and opens on the side to display an underskirt of golden brown plush.

A dress of black satin is very elaborately draped with steel embroidered lace.

Many of these costumes have bonnets to match, and Mrs. Harrison has bought gloves by the dozen, silk hosiery, lace s fans, and all the other little accessories that go to make up a lady's toilet.

Other orders will be given. One dress is talked of that will be elaborately trimmed with ostrich features and a beautiful tea gown will be in heavy white faille, the front being of softly draped crepe du chene cameo pink.

A peep into Mrs. Harrison's quarters at the Gilsey house showed an elegant litter of all the dainty paraphernalia which ladies delight to buy. The apartments Nos. 2 and 4, which are occupied by Mrs. Harrison and her daughter, have been newly furnished throughout.

"That furniture's th' finest New York kin tura out, mum," said the man in waiting, "and jist luk at that carpet; 'faith ye go most up to yer knees in it. And jist luk at thim decorations. Yez may be sure, mum, there's none loike 'em in the city. But they're none too good for th' lady what's in 'em, bless her."

Mrs. Harrison did no shopping yesterday. The afternoon was given up to receiving callers, of whom she had a large number.

She dined at the hotel. She is somewhat fatigued by the amount of shopping she has done, but she has evidently enjoyed herself.

Couldn't Stand Both.

"Gretchen," said the man of the house, putting his head in at the kitchen door, "I have no objection to your friends smoking Connecticut cigars or eating Limburger cheese in my house, but when the two flavors announce themselves simultaneously I kick. This reception will come to an end in exactly three minutes by the watch or I call the police.

THE FRENCH CABINET FALLS

Floquet and His Minister Tender Their Resignations.

DEFEATED IN THE DEPUTIES.

Debate On the Question of a Revision of the Constitution Indefinitely Postponed—Boulanger's Manifesto.

Flaquet Resigns.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—The chamber of deputies was crowded to-day. The Prince of Wales and Lord Lytton, the British ambassador, occupied seats in the diplomatic gallery. Baron Macken, president of the right, moved to adjourn debate on the question for one week. He declared that the right desired a complete revision as well as a dessolution of the charter.

Premier Floquet refused to entertain the motion, stating that the government could not consent to dissolve the chamber.

Baron Macken's motion was rejected—375 to 173.

Count De Douville-Maillefeu, in moving an indefinate postponement of the revision debate, said, "The electoral period virtually begins to-day. Let us leave to the people the duty of indicating what kind of revision they desire. Let us not lose time in discussion of a question that is in no wise definite. Instead of pursuing a policy of egotism, let us return to a policy of common sense."

Floquet, replying, reminded the house that the government was pledged to make the revision proposal the immediate order of the day at the scrutin d' arrondissement bill.

At the conclusion of Floquet's remarks a division was taken and Count Douville-Maillefeu's motion was adopted—307 to 218.

Premier Floquet thereupon announced that the ministry would immediately resign. Immediately after the announcement all the members of the ministry sent their resignations to President Carnot. This was a complete surprise to the chamber. Floquet had said nothing implying an intention to make a motion to adjourn the cabinet question. Both the left and right were unaware how the ministry would regard the vote. The