THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

EIGHTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1889. NUMBER 249

HOTEL HORROR AT HARTFORD.

Fifty People Crushed to Death Under Falling Walls.

CAUSED BY A BOILER EXPLOSION.

The Ruins Enveloped in Flames and Many of the Imprisoned Unfortunates Roasted to Death—The Missing.

A Terrible Disaster.

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 18.—Just before daylight this morning this city was startled by the sound of a monster explosion, and immediately the persons in that section near the capitol were further startled by the sound of crashing walls and falling timbers, mingled with the screams and shouts of men, coming from the vicinity of High and Allyn streets, which had been the site of the Park Central hotel.

Those who hurried to the spot found a huge pile of stone and brick and splintered timbers, from which white clouds of steam arose, streaked and blackened by wreaths of smoke that rapidly grew more intense. Then tongues of flame leaped out here and there, gradually growing stronger until the ruin was a roaring heap.

Cries and moans came from the pile which made the bystanders sick with horror. The fire department was soon on the scene and many streams of water were directed upon the flames. As daylight came on, the helpers at the ruins could see behind it the annex to the building in which were the servants of the hotel, and which was spared. Portions of tiers of rooms at the rear of the main building had remained standing, but the partitions were torn away and the rooms opened to the air. The floors of many of them had partly given away and tumbled the occupants and furniture upon the confused ruin below. The frightened employes were safely taken from the annex by ladders. Finally the flames were mastered by the firemen and sank down from sight within the ruins, where the water yet hissed and steamed among the hot stones and brick.

As soon as the ruins were sufficiently cooled hundreds of willing hands set about the herculean task of removing the immense mass of masonry, and the enormous throng which had by this time gathered waited and watched in breathless suspense. The first person rescued was George Gaines, a colored porter, who died soon after being taken out. Helen Lepert, Jenny Decker and Jacob B. Turpin were taken out and found to be only slightly injured. Rechal Cramer jumped from window, breaking her leg. At 9 o'clock Harris Stiffle, a traveler from Philadelphia, was rescued from beneath a mass of a timber with but slight injuries. Near him was found the dead body of Dwight H. Buell, who had evidently been suffocated.

By this time the crowd of spectators had increased to such proportions as to greatly impede the work of the rescuers. Accordingly the militia was ordered out to aid the police, and rendered excellent service during the day and night keeping the crowd within bounds.

By noon telegrams of anxious inquiry were pouring in from every part of the country, and the friends of those supposed to be in the ruins were arriving on every train, together with immense crowds of curious people from the surrounding towns.

The lower floor of a large wool warehouse was made a temporary morgue. The bodies were taken there as fast as recovered and opportunity offered for identification by friends. Those not identified were taken charge of by the city. The injured were promptly sent to the hospital.

The recovery of the bodies was slow owing to the immense accumulation of debris, but at nearly regular intervals one or two bodies were found during the afternoon. They were found in the order of the list given.

This catastrophe was devoid of the harrowing details and thrilling rescues attending an uncontrolled conflagration. One terrible crash, smoke, flames, quick, rushing streams of water, and all was over. For this reason the disaster simply overwhelms. The magnitude of the calamity cannot be realized. In fact, its extent is not yet known. The register of the hotel has not yet been found, and Mr. Perry, the night clerk, is buried in the ruins. But from the best estimates that can be obtained from the landlords and others, it is probable that there were not far from fifty people in the hotel proper.

Of these, perhaps five may have escaped uninjured among the confusion of the early morning hours, which would leave forty-five unaccounted for. Ten are in the hospital, and up to this writing (midnight) sixteen dead bodies have been taken from the ruins, leaving nineteen still missing. But there may be more than this.

The cause of the disaster was undoubtedly the explosion of a boiler in the basement. No engineer was on duty at the time, the custom being for the night engineer to bank his fires and go to bed. He does not sleep in the hotel. This engineer, Alexander Thuer, was arrested this afternoon on an indictment for manslaughter. It has been conjectured that Gaines, the colored porter, may have started the pumps, throwing cold water nto the overheated boiler, and thus causing the explosion. But this is only conjecture, and Gaines is dead.

The force of the explosion was terrific. All the people in that part of the city were awakened by the shock. Huge stones were scattered and iron pipes were bent and twisted. The windows in the adjoining buildings and across the street were demolished and panes of glass smashed two blocks away.

It is believed to-night that Mrs. Weeson, of Springfield, was at the hotel with her five ceildren and a servant. She has not been seen. If this proves true, the aggregate loss of life would be raised by the addition of these seven victims.

The experiences of the survivors were remarkable and the escapes miraculous. Walter M. Gray occupied a room adjoining Landlord Ketchum's. When he awoke he found the bed sinking with him. When it became stationary he found himself pinned down by the ceiling and timbers in such a manner that he was unable to move. He soon heard the voices of Mr. and Mrs. Ketchum, and conversed with them concerning the chances of escape. Before they were rescued the water poured into the ruins by the firemen had nearly covered his face.

The complete list of bodies taken out up to midnight is as follows:

DWIGHT H. BUELL.
GEORGE GAINES, the colored porter.
GEORE ENGLER, of Hartford.
JOHN W. HOUSMAN, a commercial traveler of Buffalo.
LOUIS H. BRONSON, secretary of the Hartford Stove company, his wife and child.
GEORGE KETCHUM, brother of the landlord.
EDDIE KETCHUM, aged eleven, son of the landlord.
GEORGE W. ROOT, a commercial traveler from Boston.
A. H. TILLETSON, a commercial traveler from Cincinnati.
MAXIMILIAN GALODY, proprietor of the Hartford Herald, and his wife.
MRS. ANDREW WHITING.
Two unknown men.

The victims at the hospital are all doing well, most of the injuries being superficial, although all are suffering from chill and exposure. Some of the bodies of the dead are much disfigured and burned, but the faces of most of them are not injured and wear a lifelike expression. Electric lights have been put in and around the ruins and the search will be vigorously pushed all night.

At 2 a. m. the list of dead has been increased to twenty-five. Eighteen injured are in the hospital, and ten persons are known to be still in the ruins.

An Alabama Cyclone.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 18.—It is reported here that a cyclone passed through Hible county, fifty miles south of here, last night, doing great damage. Several persons are reported killed and many injured. It is impossible to obtain particulars to-night.

THE BONFIELD-TIMES CASE.

Plaintiff's Attorneys on the Ragged Edge of Uncertainty.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The members of the February grand jury trembled in their boots this morning when they stood up to receive the oath from Judge Tuley. He told the men that the oath that they had just taken was as strong as anything he might say, but that during the present sitting they would probably have some business to take care of that would require fearless men to deal with. Should the subject which he had in mind be laid before them—[here it was understood that he referred to the Bonfield-Schanck-Times case]—he warned them not to expose secrets of the grand jury room, because any violation of duty in that regard would be severely punished.

"It must be apparent to every observing mind," said he, "that the right of free speech and of a free press are undergoing a very severe trial at this time throughout our land. Experience has heretofore demonstrated that it is better to leave these rights untrammeled by any legislation in the nature of a censorship, leaving the parties guilty of an abuse of those constitutional privileges to suffer for such abuse thereof by being held responsible, criminally and civilly, as provided by law. But while the law deems it necessary that the licentiousness of the press shall be restrained, yet it is important that the press should be kept free, fearless and untrammeled in any honest effort to expose official corruption, if any exist. You will receive the law as applicable to the facts from the state's attorney, and, as to your duty as to those facts, I can only charge you that you respond to your oaths, to present no indictment through malice, hatred or ill-will, nor to leave any indictment unpresented through fear, favor and affection, or for any fee or reward, or for any hope or promise thereof, but in all your presentments you shall present the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

Judge Tuley further said: "If any person shall try, directly or indirectly, to influence your action it will be your duty to make the same known to the court without hesitation."

One of the Bonfield attorneys was in the room, and from the remark overheard by the reporter the lawyer did not take kindly to the court's instructions.

"Will you go before this grand jury with your charges against the Times?" was asked.

"That all depends," he replied. "We don't yet know the temper of the men on that jury. Men are very different, you know. We will probably know in four or five days just what step is to be taken, and how soon."

THE CABINET SLATES.

They Unanimously Agree on Five of the Eight Portfolios.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 18.—Speculations as to General Harrison's probable cabinet still continue to be the engrossing theme in political and journalistic circles. The efforts to name a complete cabinet are widely variant, especially as to the portfolios for the interior, justice and agriculture departments. There is, however, a harmonious opinion as to the other five portfolios, scarcely any one being found now who is willing to gainsay the present conviction that Blaine will be secretary of state; Windom, secretary of the treasury; Rusk, of Wisconsin, secretary of war; Thomas, of Illinois, secretary of the navy, and Wannamaker, postmaster general.

There is pretty good foundation for coupling General John W. Noble, of St. Louis, with the interior secretaryship, and the persistence with which the name of W. H. H. Miller, of this city, is being coupled with the attorney generalship causes many to believe that the report has real foundation, but the best authorities give the department of justice to Judge Estee, of California.

Nearly all the cabinet makers, for some reason, have Warner Miller on the slate for the new agricultural portfolio, and now a few give also ex-Senator Platt one of the coveted seats.

Among the callers on General Harrison to-day were ex-Governor Redfield Proctor, of Vermont, who is en route home from California; John W. Dinsmore and J. H. Cheney, of Bloomington, Ill., and Colonel J. H. Smither, of New Mexico.

At a late hour to-night it is learned that since the long talk to-day between Governor Proctor, of Vermont, and General Harrison, certain and well-informed gentlemen have slated Mr. Proctor for secretary of the navy in place of Congressman Thomas, of Illinois. The superior qualifications of Thomas for this position, by reason of strong and laborious service in the committee on naval affairs, are conceded, but meagre representation in the east, together with the fact that Thomas' appointment would necessitate a special election in his district, are being used as arguments why the portfolio may go to Vermont. Another important rumor late to-night is that W. O. Bradley, of Kentucky, has been tendered and accepted the attorney generalship. Nothing can be done to verify these reports to-night, however.

The Mackey System's Acquisitions.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 18.—A dispatch from Evansville, Ind., says that in addition to the purchase of the Louisville, Evansville & St. Louis road, which was announced last Saturday, the Mackey system also secured possession of the Illinois & St. Louis line, running between Belleville, Ill., and St. Louis. President Branch, of the latter road, practically certifies to this report, and says that while the consolidation has not been actually effected, yet the deal will be closed before the present month expires.

The Evansville & St. Louis does not come to Belleville now, but the gap between that place and Mount Vernon, Ill., will be filled during the coming summer. When this is completed the Mackey system will have an entrance into St. Louis and the benefit of all terminal facilities of the Illinois & St. Louis line.

Klein's Hearing Postponed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Klein, the American newspaper man whose adventures in Samoa have been the subject of international comment, will not appear before the senate committee on foreign relations, at least for the present. He telegraphed Secretary Bayard that he had been summoned to testify concerning matters in Samoa, but the secretary was advised that the committee did not deem it politic or polite to take any further steps in the Samoan matter pending the result of the conference to be held in Berlin.

The Visible Supply.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—The visible supply for the week ending February 16, as compiled by the secretary of the Chicago board of trade, is as follows:

	Bushels.
Wheat	33,435,000
Corn	14,589,000
Oats	8,155,000
Rye	1,712,000
Barley	2,162,000

Horse and Cattle Thieves Captured.

DEADWOOD, Dak., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Elmer Lewis and Charley Stewart, horse and cattle thieves, were captured by the sheriff's posse on Indian creek, after a sharp exchange of shots, and jailed last night.

Meline Gives It Up.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—Meline, recognizing the impossibility of forming a cabinet on a basis of the concentration of the several republican groups, has abandoned the attempt. It is expected that President Carnot will appeal to Rouvier to form a ministry.

In Favor of Prohibition.

MAPLEWOOD, Ill., Feb. 18.—At the election held at Maplewood to-day, to decide the question of prohibition, the vote was 147 for to 19 against it.

King Otto Helplessly Insane.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—A dispatch from Munich says that King Otto, of Bavaria, has been proved, without a doubt, to be helplessly insane.

BARNES BLOCKS THE WAY.

He Opposes the Immediate Admission of South Dakota.

FORT OMAHA'S PROPOSED SITE

The Secretary of War Disapproves of the Clark Tract and Recommends a Site Farther From the City.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18.

The Dakota men who are in Washington are very much put out to-night over the action of the house conferees to-day. It seemed this morning as though there was only a little formal work to do before the territorial bill would be agreed to, but owing to the unwarranted position assumed by Mr. Barnes, of Georgia, one of the house conferees, things begin to look rather bad for South Dakota, after all. Barnes is determined that he will not agree to any proposition looking to the immediate admission of South Dakota, notwithstanding the positive instructions of the house to the conferees. Mr. Barnes happened to be absent at the time when the resolution of instruction was adopted, and he makes this a reason for asserting that he is not bound by that action. Springer professes to be willing to acquiesce in the wishes of the house, which voted for the division and immediate admission of South Dakota, by a majority of forty-nine. But it is feared by the Dakota men that he will be influenced by Barnes, and that it will be impossible to agree on a report. No final action has yet been taken. The conferees will meet again to-morrow, and Mr. Baker, the republican member on the part of the house, expresses the opinion that an agreement will be reached and that May 15 will be fixed as the day for holding the election for state officers in the territory and for the ratification of the Sioux Falls constitution.

CONCERNING FORT OMAHA'S NEW SITE.

The president pro tem before the senate to-day read a letter from the secretary of war under date of February 15, which read as follows: "In reply to the resolution of the senate dated the 8th inst., calling for all the correspondence and reports pertaining to the relocation of Fort Omaha, Neb., and for an expression of my opinion in regard to the matter, I have the honor to state that the act of congress approved July 23, 1888, authorizes the purchase of not more than 640 acres of land situated within ten miles of the city limits, at a price not to exceed $66,666. Generals Schofield, Crooks and Brooks, recommend the purchase of 1000 acres of land north of Omaha, a portion of which will cost $225 per acre, and the total cost for the 900 acres would be about $166,000. This ground is situated ten miles from the Omaha postoffice. It can only be supplied with water by the City Water company, which proposes to furnish water at meter rates. The cost for water, judging from the charges made at Fort Omaha, might amount to $8,000 per annum in addition to the cost of five miles of pipe estimated at $32,000. I do not recommend the purchase of this site and in my opinion it will be better to purchase ground at a greater distance from Omaha where land is not held at so high a price and where good water may be had in abundance without the payment of a large annual tax. I enclose copies of the following papers which will, it is believed, furnish all the information called for.

1. Abstract of bids received in response to the advertisement under authority of the act of July 23, 1888.

2. Report of the major general commanding the army, dated the 11th inst.

3. Report of the commanding general, Department of the Platte.

4. Tracing showing the land owned by Mr. H. T. Clark, which is recommended by the department commander to be purchased.

5. Abstract of offers received for the sale of land in the state of Iowa, all of the land covered thereby being reported by the commanding general, Department of the Platte, as not suitable for a military post.

6. The recommendation of the commanding general, Division of the Missouri.

All of the information contained in the papers scheduled above by the secretary of war and not indicated in the above letter has been published by THE BEE. The secretary's letter and accompanying documents were referred to the senate committee on military affairs, which will likely recommend a larger appropriation than was made last year, for the purpose of carrying out Secretary Endicott's recommendations.

CABINET MATTERS.

The only real hitch in the work of the cabinet makers to-day was in the name of Representative Thomas of Illinois, who believes that he is slated for the navy. When asked this evening if he had been given any intimation direct from General Harrison or any one authorized to speak for him, Captain Thomas replied that he had not. He had been told by a friend who very recently talked with the president, that his name was under consideration and the prospects were that he would be tendered a position, that was all the information he had of a reliable nature. The most of his information he had learned from the newspapers. Yet he believes he will be secretary of the navy. To-night the slate named in these dispatches twenty-four hours ago has not been materially changed. It now stands in this form in the minds of those who know most of cabinet matters:

Blaine, secretary of state.
Windom, secretary of the treasury.
Rusk, secretary of war.
Swift, secretary of the navy.
Noble, secretary of the interior.
Wanamaker, postmaster general.
Baxter, attorney general.
Miller or Palmer, secretary of agriculture.

Senator Stanford believes that Mr. Swift has already been selected for the navy, and the California senator will have as much if not more influence than any other man in naming a cabinet officer from the Pacific slope. It is stated upon what seems to be good authority that ex-Senator Platt refused the navy because he was offered it with the understanding that if accepted he should not attempt to control the patronage for New York. No one well informed on the subject believes that Mr. Platt will be in the cabinet. At the senate this afternoon it was stated in republican circles that further protests had been sent to Indianapolis against Mr. Windom. This time his business in Wall street is urged as a reason why he should not be in the cabinet. It is feared by some that the country might regard the ex-senator as under the influence of the New York City brokers and bankers, and it is argued that to make him secretary of the treasury would be going into the very heart of the spot General Harrison has been represented as desiring to avoid. Nevertheless Washington believes that Mr. Windom has been invited into the cabinet and has accepted the treasury portfolio.

People here have come to the conclusion that Colonel New has refused the treasuryship.

A Michigan member of the house, who is very intimate with General Alger, and who talked with him a few days ago, says: "Senator Sherman kept Alger out of the cabinet. About two weeks ago General Alger heard that Senator Sherman had sent a protest against him to Indianapolis and he asked his friend, Senator-elect McMillan, to go to General Harrison about it. He authorized Senator McMillan, in the event it was learned that Sherman had protested, to state to General Harrison that General Alger could not accept a place in the cabinet in the face of an objection from so distinguished a republican as the senator from Ohio. The day after McMillan returned to Detroit from Indianapolis General Alger wrote his letter to Senator Stockbridge, which has been mentioned in the press and which stated that he (Alger) would not be a member of the cabinet."

MILLS "TURNED DOWN."

Chairman Mills was compelled to abandon his project to hold a caucus to-night to give instructions to the democratic members of the house on the tariff question, by dint of superior force on the part of Mr. Randall. This afternoon Randall and Cowles—the latter the author of the free tobacco bill—went about the house and secured pledges from over eighty democratic members that if the caucus to-night should adopt a resolution not to give the free tobacco bill an opportunity for final action, that they would hold a caucus of instruction and support the free tobacco bill in the event of its being taken up for action. Mr. Mills saw that the real object of the caucus was defeated in advance, and instructed his followers to declare the call for a caucus off. If there had been a caucus held to-night, it is very probable a collision would have occurred between the Mills and Randall forces, as the latter were determined that no action should be taken which would tie the hands of those who were in favor of the free tobacco bill. In view of the fact that tariff revision is an absolute impossibility, so far as this session is concerned, Mr. Mills has again been turned down by his own party in the house. Mr. Randall and Mr. Cowles are in high feather to-night, and announce that it is very probable that the free tobacco bill will be taken up and passed before the end of this session. If the house passes this bill the senate will undoubtedly adopt it, if only a few hours remain before the 4th of March, as the senate is in favor of the reduction of the revenue. It seems that Mr. Mills had been "turned down" all around and this last faux-pas is the most humiliating to this great free trade advocate of any that have taken place during the Fiftieth congress. This is simply adding what Mr. Mills regards as insult to injury.

WANTS A DIVORCE.

The notorious Major Reno, formerly of the Seventh cavalry, who was cashiered from the army some years ago, filed a bill to-day in the courts of the district, asking for a divorce from his wife, to whom he was married in 1883. She was a widow by the name of McGunnigle, and he claims that after residing with him two years she deserted him and went to Harrisburg, where she has since resided, and has refused to return to his bed and board. Those who are familiar with the facts do not sympathize with Major Reno in this movement, for his brutal treatment of his wife was a matter of notoriety before she left him. She is now at the home of some relatives in Harrisburg, and he has done nothing toward her support for several years. Major Reno is a clerk in the pension office.

A HINT TO NEBRASKA REPUBLICANS.

A great many letters are being written every day by men in Nebraska who aspire to appointment under the incoming administration, which are unnecessary and so much work thrown away. It should be remembered that the three republican members of congress in Nebraska will control the appointment of all the postmasters in the state, and that it does no good to write to the two senators about postmasterships, as they will take no part in securing those places, the postoffices being, by the oldest rule in politics, within the control of the members of the house representing the districts, where the politics of the members are in harmony with that of the administration, as is true with Nebraska's three members of the next lower house of congress.

A DELUGE OF OFFICE SEEKERS.

Besides the flood of applications being received from Nebraska for postoffices, many of which are sent to the senators, there have been received already over three hundred applications for the land offices in the state, about twenty for the United States marshalship, more than that number for the collectorship of internal revenue, and hundreds of applications for positions in the railway mail service, notwithstanding the fact that that service will be within the civil service law after March 15. I am afraid that there are to be many disappointments on the part of aspirants in Nebraska.

MISCELLANEOUS AND PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Collman, of Broken Bow, arrived last night and are visiting Mrs. Collman's parents, Senator and Mrs. Paddock, at the Portland. Mrs. Collman is very pleasantly remembered as a society favorite in Washington during the last session of congress, prior to her marriage. She will remain here till after the inauguration.

Senator Quay and General Dudley were in telegraphic communication this afternoon with some Nebraska republicans over the question of the Hon. John M. Thurston going into the cabinet as secretary of the interior. Both of these gentlemen and Chauncey M. Depew and many others have endorsed Judge Thurston.

W. W. Baldwin, of Burlington, Ia., is at the Ebbett. He is at the head of the land department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. Before he went into the railroad business he was a law partner of Hon. Benton J. Hall, commissioner of patents.

PERRY S. HEATH.

SIOUX SCRIP LOCATIONS.

An Important Decision Affecting Their Validity.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The secretary of the interior to-day rendered a decision in the case of James W. Allen, et al, of Glendive, Mont., against Lewis Merrill, et al, involving an important question of the validity of locations of Sioux Indian half-breeds, scrip. The defendants in this case located Sioux scrip upon unsurveyed public lands as attorneys-in-fact for the Indians, and under the same power of attorney made the improvements required by law. The protestants maintained that the locations so made were invalid and illegal on the ground that it was not shown that the improvements were made for the benefit of the Indians, as required by law. The secretary, in his decision, sustained the protestants and holds that the locations so made were in effect the result of a sale and transfer of the script, which is a direct violation of law.

The secretary also decided the cases of John F. Magee et al versus Henry F. Ortley et al, of Devil's Lake, Dak., and Hyde & McDonald versus Eaton Steeram, of Duluth, Minn., in which are involved substantially the same questions. It is also said at the interior department that these decisions will effect the titles to large quantities of land lying immediately adjacent to towns on the Northern Pacific railroad in Montana, Minnesota and Dakota, upon which scrip of the character described has been located and the lands sold as town lots. A large number of cases are now pending in the general land office, which will also be affected by these decisions.

A Refactory Witness.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—A full meeting of the senate committee on public buildings and grounds was held to-day to consider the case of Witness Thomas Fisler, chief clerk of the supervising architect's office of the treasury department, who last week refused to answer certain questions regarding the collection or receipt of political contributions from employes in the office when asked by the sub-committee. At the meeting to-day the witness was given another opportunity to answer the question, but he again refused. The committe thereupon went into secret session, but just what has been determined upon has not yet yet developed. It is reported that the matter will probably be settled in the senate and it is the impression that Fisler will be arrested and brought before the bar of the senate for contempt.

There was presented to the committee to-day a letter from John A. Dix, secretary of the treasury in 1861, to Speaker Pennington, one of the enclosures of which has his famous order containing the words, "If any man hauls down the American flag, shoot him on the spot."

Another enclosure in the same letter referred to the voluntary surrender of the revenue cutter Robert McClelland, by the refractory witness—Hon. Thomas D. Fisler—to the state of Louisiana, for which act he was dismissed from the service. He served with the confederacy throughout the war, although a native of Pennsylvania.

Edison's Patents Upheld.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—A decision was to-day handed down by the appeal court, upholding the electric light patents of Edison & Swan against the Holland and Anglo-American Brush patents, thus reversing the decision of the lower court.

IT WAS HIS IMPATIENT ZEAL

Why Chase Made a Practice of Raising Vouchers.

ANOTHER CHASE IN TROUBLE

The President of the Defunct First National and Union Banks of Fairmont Supposed to Have Fled.

Superintendent Chase Explains.

GENOA, Neb., Feb. 18.—Learning that there was dissatisfaction among some of Superintendent Chase's friends in regard to the newspaper reports of the Indian school investigation, your correspondent called upon Mr. Chase last evening for his side of the story. Mr. Chase appeared to be very much surprised at the report that he was a defaulter to the extent of a single dollar, and claims to be able to account for every dollar that has come into his hands. He confesses to have misappropriated money to a considerable amount, and says:

"I have exceeded my authority in many cases, but it has been through my excessive zeal for the welfare of the school. I have raised vouchers for the purpose of getting money for needed repairs, etc., rather than to go through all the "red tape" business of getting permission and appropriations, and I shall be able to show that every dollar that I have thus received has been spent for and on government property, and an inventory of the property will show an increased value to the extent of every dollar that I am short. The report that I have held back money belonging to the children is false. I have always advanced the boys money during the quarter whenever they asked for it, and the result was that when pay day came many of them had nothing coming and were dissatisfied. No, sir! I have never taken one cent of the government's money, but have spent some of my own salary on improvements, and I go away from here a poorer man than when I came, as I haven't a dollar in the world except my January salary."

Mr. Chase also stated, that, were it not for the change of the administration he should feel confident of being reinstated. When informed that the reports published were put in circulation by Inspector Mallett, he was greatly excited and claimed that the inspector denied ever having made any such statement.

There is no doubt that matters are in a bad way at the school and that there is a shortage to the amount of many thousand dollars, but whether it has been misappropriated or stolen is a matter of conjecture.

Dedication W. C. T. U. Temple.

FREMONT, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The formal dedication of the W. C. T. U. temperance temple, of this city, took place last night. There were present from abroad Mrs. Caroline M. Woodward, state vice president; Mrs. Alma G. Fitch, state recording secretary, and C. J. Holt, the temperance evangelist from Decatur, Ill. Mrs. Mary Hitchcock, president of the state and local union, presided. The large auditorium of the temple was crowded. The dedicatory address was delivered by Mrs. Helen M. Gougar, of Lafayette, Ind., whose reputation for ability and zeal extends all over the land. Her address was a masterly one, being confined principally to a historical sketch of the various temperance movements which have swept over the country, dwelling at some length upon the rise and wonderful progress of the Women's Christian Temperance union. The formal portion of the dedication was performed by Mrs. Rev. T. B. Hilton, of this city, who, in a neat and appropriate address, dedicated the building to the work of the W. C. T. U. The temple is the finest one owned by any Woman's Christian Temberance union in the state, and the people of Fremont, as well as the members of the organization, are all proud of it. It was erected at a cost of about $7,000, with but a slight indebtedness hanging over it.

Elopement at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—William Bergman is a carpenter about thirty-five years of age, and has a wife and four children. While Mrs. Bergman was visiting in Iowa some time in December, he had Lucy Johnson, aged about eighteen years, as housekeeper. They grew very intimate. Mrs. Bergman returned home on the night of December 31 very unexpectedly, after which there was trouble in the family. On Thursday night last William and Lucy departed via the Missouri Pacific for Dunbar, and were followed and found at Stella, from whence they were brought to this place and lodged in the county jail for trial. No charges being made against Miss Johnson, she was released Sunday afternoon. The wife of Bergman swore out a warrant for Bergman's arrest, charging him with adultery. He will have a hearing Saturday. Miss Johnson is resting peacefully at her father's home, while Bergman has been taken to some other town for fear of mobbing, as the town is in an uproar over the case.

An Overdose of Chloral.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—About midnight last night Mrs. William Brantner, of this city, narrowly escaped death by taking an overdose of chloral. After retiring she became quite ill, and as was her custom, arose and took a dose of chloral to relieve her suffering. Not thinking it worth her while to light a lamp, she poured out what she supposed to be about the correct amount in a cup, with some water, and drank it down. Immediately after returning she felt the effects of the drug, and informed her husband that she believed she had poisoned herself with an overdose. Upon lighting a lamp he discovered she had taken nearly the whole contents of the bottle. A physician was summoned and an antidote was given which served the purpose, and it is thought she will recover.

Safe Blowers.

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb., Feb. 18.—Special to THE BEE.]—Burglars entered the Citizens' bank at this place last night between 11 and 12 o'clock and blew the outer doors off a large safe. They got as far in as the steel chest inside before they were heard. C. D. Smiley, being the first person to discover something wrong, at once proceeded to invent schemes to capture them. His plans failed, however, and the birds escaped. To-day the sheriff of Dakota county and also the sheriff of Woodbury county, Iowa, are out looking for them. The general opinion of the people in this vicinity is that there is an organized gang of thieves at work in Dakota county, as this is the third safe that has been "cracked" in this county this week.

Thought to Have Flown.

FAIRMONT, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—J. O. Chase, brother of the defaulting president of the People's bank, and president of the defunct First National and Union banks, left Fairmont several days since, ostensibly on a business trip to McCook. It now transpires that he has not been there, and the opinion has become general that he has fled the country to avoid criminal prosecution for crookedness while president of the First National. The affairs of this institution are being investigated, and it is to this that Chase's departure is attributed.

Governor Thayer at Norfolk.

NORFOLK, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Governor Thayer came up from Lincoln yesterday and visited the hospital for insane, with regard to personal information in regard to the recent tragedies. A large number of citizens called on him at Colonel Cotton's, where he was a guest. The governor will take no action with regard to the physicians at the hospital, at least until after their trial. In this purpose he will be sustained by the leading citizens here, who think that injustice would be done to remove them under the circumstances as they at present exist.

$20,000 Breach of Promise Suit.

DAKOTA CITY, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A $20,000 breach of promise suit has been filed in the district court by Miss Sallie McConahey against Judge T. Griffey, who was recently married to a highly esteemed lady of this place. The plaintiff is a maid of forty-five years, and friends of the defendant claim the move is a blackmailing scheme, while Sallie avers that she has willingly waited on Thomas only to be disappointed, for which she asks $20,000. The high standing of Judge Griffey in the county makes the case more than ordinarily sensational, and developments are eagerly waited for.

Funeral of Frederick Koch.

WEST POINT, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The funeral services of the late Frederick Koch were held Saturday at the residence of Mrs. William Brietenger. The deceased was born in Zackerick, in Brandenburg, Prussia, February 21, 1829. Mr. Koch came to this country in 1869 and through honesty and hard labor had become a most prosperous farmer. His death was caused through inhaling the odors of some poisonous medicine he was preparing for his stock. He leaves a wife and seven children.

Waterworks for Grant.

GRANT, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—An enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Grant was held this evening to consider the advisability of putting in a system of waterworks. A board of trade was organized. There has been great activity in Grant town property, and a number of large sales of city property to eastern parties have been made during the last few days, and everything points to a tremendous boom in the spring.

M. E. Church Dedication.

STERLING, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The new M. E. church of this place was dedicated yesterday. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Fisher, of Topeka, Kan., formerly of Omaha, assisted by Presiding Elder Smith and Rev. J. N. Royse, of Auburn, and Rev. C. A. Lewis, of this place. The building cost unwards of $3,000, and was dedicated free of debt.

Death of a Brotherhood Engineer.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Henry Houck, a prominent brotherhood engineer of this city, died very suddenly at his home yesterday morning about 10 o'clock of heart failure. The funeral will occur to-morrow at 2 o'clock. A large delegation of brotherhood men are expected from a distance.

Struck By a Train.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The north bound Missouri Pacific this afternoon ran into a team near Julian, driven by Mr. Julian, after whom the town was named. Both horses were killed and the gentleman had one arm smashed and his scalp badly cut.

A Lucky Farmer.

HARDY, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—C. W. Webster, a farmer living seven miles south of Hardy, in Jewell county, Kansas, had a ticket in the February drawing in a southern lottery for $5,000. He was in to-day and placed it in the Hardy bank for collection.

For Running a Gambling House.

OXFORD, Neb., Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—For running a gambling house Will Carter was to-day fined $50 and costs of the action. Will appealed the case to the district court.

PRESIDENTS' AGREEMENT.

Some of the Roads Still Hanging Back.

CHICAGO, Feb., 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Nothing was talked of among railroad men here to-day except to-morrow's meeting of the presidents to discuss the presidents' agreement. The presidents themselves are as serenely confident of the final adoption of the agreement as if it were already signed, sealed and delivered. Said President Hughitt, of the Northwestern: "I am satisfied that nearly or quite all of the interested roads will be present at the meeting. President Charles Francis Adams, of the Union Pacific, will also be present. I see no reason why the agreement should not be adopted, and believe, as I have all along, that it finally will be." General McNulta, receiver of the Wabash railroad, is perfectly confident of the adoption of the agreement. Said he: "The agreement is an absolute necessity, and as a consequence must be adopted. It is as certain as two and two are four." President Strong, of the Santa Fe, has just returned from an unsuccessful attempt to gain the signature of the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf, but was not at all skeptical of the final adoption of the agreement. He said: "It maybe that the Illinois Central, the Fort Scott & Gulf and perhaps one or two more may not be represented at to-morrow's meeting, but I do not think that any of them will antagonize the agreement. It will be passed without their signatures, and if they live up to its terms, the agreement will practically have the same effect, as if they had signed." There is no question that it is the intention to form an agreement with as many roads as will sign. The outside roads will then be watched closely, and compelled as far as lies in the power of the association, to live up to the terms of the agreement.

Chicago's Collapsed Building.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—The city commissioner of buildings to-day examined the damaged Owings structure and reports the injury much less than stated yesterday. A portion of the tiled flooring, about twenty feet long and six wide, which joined the two main wings of the building, had just been filled in, and was, in the language of the builder, still "green." This was struck and evidently loosened in the tenth floor Saturday afternoon by a heavy iron water tank which was being raised to the roof. It gradually worked loose and gave way, carrying the "green" portion of the floors below with it to the basement. The commissioner reports that the main structure is not injured in the slightest.

Wilson Captured.

RAPID CITY, Dak. Feb. 18.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Jack Wilson, one of the Homestake train robbers who was held in Deadwood to testify against Daugherty, broke jail on Saturday night, but was caught to-day in a cabin in the woods between Deadwood and Sturgis. He had no boots or shoes and the extreme cold weather drove him to cover. He gave evidence against the others, and it was thought he would get a lighter sentence had he not broken jail.

To Meet the Low Rates.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road has reduced its passenger service in Iowa to the extent of 8,000 miles a month, and is preparing to still further reduce it. The object is to cut down expenses in the same proportion that the commissioners of Iowa have curtailed the revenues of the roads of that state by enforcing a low schedule of rates. Other Iowa roads, it is said, will take the same step.

The Weather Indications.

For Nebraska and Iowa—Fair; warmer; variable winds.

For Dakota—Fair; slightly warmer; variable winds, generally northerly.

EDGERTON'S PARTING SHOT

He Has a Word to Say on the Subject of Removals.

AN OPEN LETTER TO CLEVELAND

From Which It Would Appear to the Outside World That Their Relations are Anything But Cordial.

A Bitter Dose For Grover.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Judge Edgerton, who was recently removed from the office of civil service commissioner, has written an open letter to the president. He says, among other things:

"I was indebted to you for the only appointive office I ever held. You now declare by your action that you regret the appointment; I, with equal right, can say that I regret the acceptance. Your regret was never made known to me by you in any word of utterance or action until now, at the close of your administration, and on the day before my removal. I presume there were prudential political reasons why you did not make the removal until after election. In this regard it would almost seem as if you were willing to play false with the mugwumps to enable you to win with the democrats. The result of the election placed you in a dilemma from which few people would have known how to extricate themselves. You found one man on your hands whom the mugwumps had declared war upon and an enemy to their civil service reform theories, and your plan of becoming their representative in the future would be weakened or defeated if no assurance of your fidelity to their cause could be assured. Accordingly, it appears, you decided upon the removal of the head of the commission, and deeming Thompson a good enough mugwump for them, you therefore demand my resignation that you might appoint him, apparently as an atonement for your previous inaction.

"Mr. President, with due courtesy to the high office you hold, allow me to say that you are a very peculiar man, a positive man, positively wrong or positively right, and therefore an unsafe man to trust, and that element in your character I believe led to your defeat. Pope says: 'The most positive men are the most credulous, since the most believe themselves and advise most with their fellow flatterers, and worst enemies.' Being one of that