THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

EIGHTEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1889. NUMBER 250

DIRECT TAX BILL DOOMED.

Cleveland Has Determined Not to Sign It.

THE LATEST CABINET SLATE.

Thomas, of Illinois, Down for Secretary of the Navy—Mills and Randall Watching Each Other.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 19.

There is now no hope for the direct tax bill. It is unredeemably lost, and if it ever becomes a law it will have to go through the regular channels of the next house, although the senate adopted it to-day. The democrats in the house filibustered against its consideration and defeated it. There now remains but nine legislative days of the Fiftieth congress. It is said that President Cleveland has promised not to sign the bill if passed, and to permit it to lie on his desk. Since no bill passed by this congress after to-day can become a law without President Cleveland's signature, the direct tax bill is already a corpse. A measure must either be signed or ten legislative days must elapse in order to make it a law, and since only nine days can pass before the end of this congress, any bill adopted hereafter can not become a law without the president's signature. The most contemptible dilatory motions were made by the democrats in the house to defeat action upon the conference report on the bill to-day. It was very exasperating to the republicans, but they could not help themselves. There are a number of measures which may be defeated by the pocket veto. The Oklahoma and the territorial state-hood bills may be pocket vetoed if passed. The friends of the omnibus territorial bill yet believe that that measure will be finally adopted this week, and that the president can be persuaded to sign it.

There was a report in circulation at the capitol this afternoon that the Nicaraguan canal bill would not be signed by the president, and another report that it would be vetoed. The friends of the measure say that it will become a law without the president's signature.

CABINET SPECULATION.

Cabinet speculation received a new impetus at the capital to-day. The talk hinged mostly upon Representative Thomas, of Illinois, for secretary of the navy, and Hon. John M. Thurston, of Nebraska, for the interior. It is now believed by the best informed cabinet makers that Captain Thomas is on the slate. In fact a number of messages have been sent to President-elect Harrison congratulating him upon Thomas' selection. Not only have Senators Cullum and Farwell, but nearly all of the Illinois delegation have extended their congratulations to the appointive power and the appointee. Senator Stanford has telegraphed to General Harrison his endorsement of Captain Thomas' selection, and stated that it will please the Pacific coast. Thomas' appointment will be very popular in congress. He is not only well qualified for the place, but he is one of the most popular men that ever occupied a seat in either house of congress. He is being congratulated by almost every public man he meets. Among those who congratulated him this afternoon were J. S. Harrison, of Kansas City, a brother of the president-elect, and John a Nunez, of New York. His rooms at the Ebbitt to-night were thronged with statesmen extending him their approving hands.

It is stated that a lively telegraphic correspondence between this city, New York, Nebraska and Indianapolis has been going on for twenty-four hours in relation to the appointment of Thurston for the interior.

The general impression here is that W. H. H. Miller, of Indianapolis, will likely go into the cabinet. The slate named in these dispatches continues to stand the test of public criticism here. Despite the repeated announcement that ex-Senator Warner Miller has declined the secretaryship of agriculture, the New York and other eastern republicans in Washington firmly believe that he will occupy that position. The republican senators while still amazed at the proposition to make Mr. Windom secretary of the treasury, seem to have given up their idea of a formal protest. It can be stated definitely that such a protest had been drawn up and numerously signed, but at the last moment it was considered to be unquestionably wrong to protest against the selection of any cabinet officer, as it has always been considered the personal prerogative of the president-elect to surround himself with men of his own choice, and that therefore all outside influence could properly be considered unwarrantable interference. It is stated to-night, however, that a strong telegram has been sent to a leading republican at Indianapolis with a request that he transmit it to General Harrison, announcing the surprise with which Mr. Windom's name is received here. It can safely be stated that the only reason why the senators remain silent is the fact that they do not wish to appear in the light of interferers, but the opposition to Mr. Windom is nevertheless pronounced.

MILLS AND RANDALL.

A set-to between Mr. Mills and Mr. Randall was expected in the house to-day, and it attracted quite an extraordinary crowd of visitors. It was believed that Mr. Randall would call up the Cowles free tobacco bill and that Mr. Mills would fight it with all of his reserve forces. Both of these men were in their seats all the afternoon watching an opportunity, one to call up the bill and the other to defeat its consideration. A look of satisfaction overspread Mr. Mills' face when the pestoffice appropriation bill came up and got the floor. Mr. Randall went over on the republican side and had a long conference with Mr. Reed. He learned that the republicans would stand by him if he made a fight for the tobacco bill. Mr. Randall says that he intends to get the Cowles bill up at the first opportunity, and since he counts upon seventy-five or eighty democratic votes and all of the republican support, there is no doubt that he can succeed if he can get the question considered before the house.

THE PACIFIC FUNDING BILL.

Friends of the Pacific railroad funding bill have abandoned all hopes for the final adoption of the measure, so far as this congress is concerned. The bill has been re-committed to the house committee, and this means that it cannot receive further consideration. This action was forced by a representative of the Central Pacific, who objected to the bill unless that road is included.

NEBRASKA LAND CASES.

The secretary of the interior to-day reversed the decision of the commissioner of the general land office, holding for cancellation Samuel Durham's homestead entry for the northwest quarter of section 29, township 15 north, range 4 east, Lincoln land district, and directed that the entry be passed to patent.

The secretary modified the decision of the commissioner of the general land office in the matter of the application of Henry C. Tingley to make homestead entry for lot 5, section 34, township 9 north, range 30, Grand Island district. The commissioner denied the application. The secretary directs that the local officers shall give Tingley notice of his right to select a relinquishment, and to allow him thirty days within which to do so. Should he file his relinquishment for any such legal subdivision his entry to that extent will be cancelled and permitted to remain intact for the other lands which he named in his appeal. Should no relinquishment be filed in the time specified his entry, so far as it affects lot 5, will be cancelled, and Tingley will be allowed the preferred right to enter the tract restored to the public domain, for thirty days after notice to him of such cancellation.

MINOR MATTERS.

The comptroller of the currency to-day approved the reserve agents for national banks as follows: Continental National, Chicago, in place of the National Bank of Illinois, Chicago, for the Merchant National, of Nebraska City; the National bank of Commerce, Kansas City, for the First National bank, of Superior, Neb.; the National, of New York, for the First National, of Carroll, Ia.

Bishop John P. Newman and wife, of Omaha, are in the city.

Mrs. Manderson announces that she will not receive callers on Thursday of this week, but will be at home to her friends on Thursday informally hereafter in her apartments in the Portland.

The senate committee on appropriations has adopted an amendment to the sundry civil appropriation bill appropriating $30,000 for completing the work of constructing buildings at Fort Robinson, also $30,000 for completing the construction of buildings at Fort Niobrara.

ARMY ORDERS.

By direction of the secretary of war Private Thomas Kelly, Company C, Seventh Infantry, now with his company, is discharged from the service of the United States, and Corporal Joseph D. McMichael, Company E, Twenty-first infantry, now at Fort Sidney, is tranferred to the hospital corps as a private.

PERRY S. HEATH.

THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

Manager McDonald of the Times on the Stand.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The court room was crowded to-day when the Parnell commission resumed its sitting. Henry Labouchere, John Morley, and other prominent persons were present. McDonald, the manager of the Times, was the first witness. He was cross-examined by counsel for the Parnellites. He declined to say whether he regarded the letters of the 9th of January and the 15th of May as the only important ones among the first five which Houston, secretary of the Irish Loyal and Patriotic union, handed to him. Presiding Justice Hannen sharply rebuked the witness for his refusal. McDonald, in reply to further questions, said the letters had to be taken as a whole, and that, as a whole, they were compromising. Witness said he forgot whether he submitted the Egan letters to an expert at the time he submitted other specimens of Egan's writing. He could not be positive whether he then had actual specimens of Egan's handwriting. He forgot what material he gave the expert to ascertain whether the letters were genuine. He was convinced that the Egan and Parnell letters were genuine before the first letter on "Parnellism and Crime" was published by the Times. Witness paid Houston £550 for the Parnell letter of the 10th of June and for Egan's letter to Carey. Total payments were made to Houston amounting to £2,550. Witness avoided asking from what source the letters were obtained because Houston said he was bound to secrecy, which he asked witness to respect. Witness first knew that Pigott, the former editor of the Irishman (newspaper), supplied them at about the time of the publication of the articles on "Parnellism and Crime" was begun. Houston showed witness, as tending to confirm the genuineness of the writing, a letter written by Parnell to Pigott, which was not submitted to the experts because it was private and confidential. McDonald said that the Times' statement that knives and firearms were kept in the league office in London was based upon the information supplied to the writer of the article in which the statement was made. He did not know directly who wrote it and he was not bound to tell if he did know. The editor of the Times was responsible for the statements made in the paper and, therefore, counsel was not entitled to demand by force the names of contributors.

At this point of the proceedings Parnell entered the court room and took a seat at the solicitor's table. Asquith, counsel for Parnell, urged that he was entitled to demand the name of the author of the article, because he was bound to test the truth of such a grave statement. The court ruled that Asquith was entitled to investigate this matter in order to ascertain the foundation of the statement. Witness said he could not name the writer without making inquries. The "Parnellism and Crime" series were not written by one author. Several persons contributed. He considered the request unreasonable.

Asquith asked the witness to obtain the names of the writers of articles in the Times.

McDonald appealed to the bench for directions whether he was compelled to answer. Presiding Justice Hannon ruled that counsel was not entitled to ask witness to make inquiries, but might question him as to anything within his knowledge in connection with specific facts.

McDonald finally said that Flanigan wrote the articles that appeared on March 7 and March 19, 1887. He had forgotten who wrote the others.

Parnell's alleged letter to Pigott was then produced. Presiding Justice Hannen asked whether it was admitted that the letter was genuine, and Sir Charles Russell replied "No, no."

Attorney General Webster then called an English writing expert to the stand, whereupon there was a sharp encounter, Sir Charles Russell contending that justice demanded that the source of the letters should be revealed before he was called upon to cross-examine the experts.

Presiding Justice Hannen thought that inquiry should now be made as to the source of the letters.

Houston, secretary of the Loyal and Patriotic league, testified that the pamphlet entitled "Parnellism Unmasked" was based upon Pigott's information regarding Devoy. In December, 1885, witness asked Pigott to supply further information for newspaper publication. Later Pigott went to Paris and elsewhere. He visited Eugene Davis at Lausanne, and wrote to the witness that he found him very bitter against the Parnellites. Pigott supplied copies of five Parnell letters and six Egan letters. Pigott returned from America with a sealed letter, which he said he had obtained from Breslin, and which contained instructions to a person in Paris to give up the letters on certain conditions. Pigott went to Paris repeatedly before he obtained the letters. Witness showed the letters to Buckley, editor of the Times, who advised him to see McDonald. Up to the time of their publication he had not bargained for payment for the letters, but he made it a condition that the Times alone should be responsible for their publication. The witness had nothing to do with the testing of the signatures, and was completely ignorant of the process by which they were tested.

IT FAVORS AMERICA.

Tone of the Australian Press on the Samoan Complication.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—The discussion of the Samoan question in New Zealand and Australia has shown that the press uniformly supports the action of the United States government in appropriating money to protect its interests, and the declaration is made that in case of serious trouble between America and Germany the sympathy of the colonies would be with the former, no matter what position England assumes. Speaking at a public banquet at Wellington, New Zealand, on January 22, Premier Atkinson said: "I rejoice to look forward to a great union of all the English-speaking races throughout the world, and venture to say that whether, in the course of time, England or America is to be the center will depend upon our English statesmen. If this is not to be the case, then we must center in the great nation of America."

The Gentleman's Agreement.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—A conference of the presidents of railroads interested in western traffic was held here to-day. Its object was to hear the report of the committee appointed some weeks ago to secure the signatures of the presidents doing business in the territory between the western terminals of trunk lines and the Missouri river, to the plan of the Interstate Traffic association, or so called "gentleman's agreement." The committee reported progress, and after a discussion the meeting decided to appoint a further committee to endeavor to secure the remaining signatures and report to the presidents, who will re-convene at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

A GIRL'S SUSPICIOUS DEATH.

Her Mother is Suspected by the Neighbors.

THE KEYA PAHA DIFFICULTIES.

A Thorough Explanation by a Resident—Three-Foot Coal Vein Found Near Unadilla — Anderson Goes Up For Life.

Is It Murder?

WISNER, Neb., Feb. 19.—Special to THE BEE.]—Last Friday evening about 6 p. m. Maggie Mendall, daughter of Charles and Margaret Mendall, living five miles northwest of Wisner, was taken violently sick while at home with her mother and younger sister and brother. She had spasms at intervals, which soon became more frequent. A doctor was summoned, but arrived just in time to witness her death at 11 p. m. The manner of her death suggested poison, and the coroner was called, who arrived on Saturday and summoned a jury of farmers. The evidence developed the fact that Mrs. Mendall had driven her husband away from home and that he was living with a stepson about two miles distant, and that she had made home a terror for him for two years. She refused to send for him upon the earnest appeal of the dying daughter, and he did not see the child until after her death. The son testified, in the presence of his mother, that she (the mother) had threatened to kill him and his sister (the deceased) at various times if they did not leave home. Other testimony brought out satisfied the jury that something was wrong, but being inexperienced they acted upon the advice of the coroner who, it seems, feared the county would not stand the expense of an autopsy and examination, and advised the jury to find a verdict that she came to her death from "causes unknown." The body was buried to-day, but from the interest manifested by citizens and neighbors in the case, it is quite probable that it will be exhumed for examination.

The Keya Paha Troubles.

SPRINGVIEW, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special to THE BEE.]—This county borders on the great Sioux reservation, and is divided therefore by the Keya Paha river on the north. This stream is easily forded at all points, and it has been the custom of the farmers and cattlemen on the nortern borders, and in fact all over the county, to drive their cattle across the river at the beginning of the planting season, to range during the summer. This is not strictly regular and legal, still it is difficult to see how any great evil could arise from this practice, and it is a great advantage and convenience to stock owners. While the land clearly belongs to the indians, there is a vast area on the southern border which is unoccupied and unused by them. The Indians and officials at the agencies are of course aware of the prevalence of this custom, and are not inclined to interfere, and seldom even remonstrate. It is true that the cattle are in reality trespassers still, as little or none of the land is cultivated, and the cattle are generally looked after by competent herders, and as the wards of the nation could have speedy and ample redress for any damage the cattle might do them, and the officials could order the removal of the latter at any time, and be backed up by the United States authorities and troops if necessary to enforce their orders, one would naturally conclude that no great wrong could ever result from the practice of stock raisers using the vacant Indian lands as a summer range for cattle and horses. As the cattle owners are clearly without legal right or protection in the use of the range, it is scarcely within the bounds of possibility that they will ever become very aggressive.

None of the parties who annually take advantage of this free range are wealthy cattle kings. There none of these in this county. In most cases they are poor homesteaders who are struggling amid the numerous disadvantages which are incident to a new and sparsely settled country to provide food, raiment and shelter for themselves and families. This they find a somewhat difficult task, and one which requires all their energies, without the additional expense of fencing their farms and their own and their neighbors' crops during the summer season from the few head of cattle they are able to accumulate.

For some years, and especially last season, an organized gang of cattle thieves have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the circumstance of the cattle being illegally on the reservation, to run them off in large numbers and sell them to equally unscrupulous dealers in the settlements in Dakota and this state. If suspected, or even detected in their nefarious trade, they could afford to laugh at their victims, as the courts of neither Nebraska nor Dakota have jurisdiction, and are therefore powerless to inflict penalties. If the sufferers were to take their cases to the United States court (an expensive procedure) they would not fare any better, as they are themselves violators of law and could get no redress, as, to commence with, the stock had no legal right on the reservation, and their owners would certainly be unable to collect damages for losses suffered while their stock was tresspassing on Indian territory.

Under these circumstances the farmers saw no hope for relief from the depredations of these marauders, except by organization for mutual protection.

The Farmers' Mutual Protective association now numbers about three hundred members. It includes in its membership many of the prominent and most reputable citizens of the county. So far no violence has been done, and only four arrests have been made. The first was that of A. J. Maupen, on January 30. He compromised with the society and was allowed to go. He is a resident of Fort Pierre, Dak., and was charged with buying cattle from "rustlers." C. M. Clay, George Babcock and H. G. Stewart were afterwards "rounded up." Babcock gave his captors the slip. Stewart turned informer and "gave away" his confederates. Clay, at the request of the sheriff of the county, acting under instructions from Governor Thayer, was turned over to the civil authorities. A writ of habeas corpus was gotten out and a hearing was had yesterday before County Judge Farnsworth, who ruled that he could not legally be held, and he was turned loose, leaving immediately for parts unknown.

The United States marshal was telegraphed for by the sheriff at the suggestion of the governor and is hourly expected, but up to the present he has not arrived.

A Three-Foot Coal Vein.

UNADILLA, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—This village is in a fever heat of excitement to-day over the discovery of the three-foot vein of coal by well diggers on the property of John Horton. At a depth of ninety feet they struck a vein of six inches. Later, at a depth of 180 feet, a vein of eighteen inches was discovered, and to-day the rich discovery of a three-foot vein at a depth of 235 feet. The excitement runs high. Numbers of capitalists have visited the discovery from various adjacent points, anxious to invest. The owner of the property has had propositions from these gentlemen to form a stock company of $10,000 for the development of the vein. A sample of the find will be taken to Lincoln at once for analysis. Meanwhile work will proceed in developing the vein, and perhaps the well diggers will go still deeper in hopes to find a still thicker deposit.

K. of P. Entertainment.

COLUMBUS, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The Knights of Pythias tendered an informal reception to their friends at the opera house this evening in honor of the silver anniversary of the order. George J. Bowman delivered the oration. The uniform rank paraded the principal streets this afternoon, headed by the band, and gave an exhibition drill this evening. A public installation of officers was held, Major W. H. Dale officiating. The officers are as follows: Captain, John Tannahill; first lieutenant, C. C. Berringer; second lieutenant, George H. Spear; recorder, P. W. Heinrich; right guide, W. A. Routson; left guide, John Elliott.

Camp Fire at Kearney.

KEARNEY, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—To-night at the opera house Chaplain Lozier, of Iowa, presided over a rousing camp fire in his humorous and pathetic style. Several hundred delegates of the G. A. R. posts throughout the state arrived this evening, and special trains to-night will bring in as many more to attend the annual state encampment of the G. A. R. and Women's relief corps. The G. A. R. will hold their first meeting in the morning at 10 o'clock.

Goes to the Penitentiary for Life.

AINSWORTH, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Ole Anderson was taken to the penitentiary this morning. He was convicted nearly two years ago of murdering his wife, and sentenced to be hanged. The supreme court recently affirmed the judgment of the trial court, but reduced the sentence to life imprisonment. Much dissatisfaction is felt here with the light penalty given so brutal a murderer.

Home Missionary Convention

COLUMBUS, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The Congregational home missionary convention, including Platte and the surrounding counties, convened in the Congregational church this afternoon. A large delegation was present.

Manderson Will Be There.

KEARNEY, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Hon. C. F. Manderson will be in attendance at the annual encampment of the G. A. R. which convenes here to-morrow.

HARRISON HARD AT WORK.

Afternoon Receptions Discontinued to Give Him More Time.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 19.—Owing to the necessity of General Harrison requiring the control of all his time during his few remaining days in Indianapolis, it is announced, at his request, that after to-day he will be compelled to discontinue the daily afternoon receptions and only such callers as secure specific appointments can be received. Correspondents are requested to address their communications henceforth to Washington.

The schedule for the president-elect's train from Indianapolis to Washington has been arranged. It will leave the former place upon the Pennsylvania road at noon Monday next and arrive at its destination the next afternoon. The train will consist of President Roberts' private car, two Pullman sleepers and a baggage car, and will be run as a section of the Atlantic express.

Among politicians great doubt has been expressed to-day as to whether Wanamaker, Rusk, Thomas, or even Noble will be given seats in the cabinet. The greatest interest seems to be centered in the Pacific slope. Many republicans openly declare that it will be a breach of good faith if the slope is ignored, and they refuse to admit that it will be; but after all, there is nothing but conjecture, for no one has any positive information on the subject.

The general and his family have actively begun work preparing for their removal to Washington.

This afternoon the Women's Literary society, of which Mrs. Harrison is a member, gave her a farewell reception. There was a full attendance of members, and a most enjoyable occasion they made of it. Mrs. Harrison has been greatly annoyed by letters based upon a reported conversation to have been had with her during her recent visit to New York, wherein she is quoted regarding the steady stream of visitors to the family since the date of her husband's nomination for the presidency. To those who know Mrs. Harrison a denial of either statements or language is unnecessary.

DISS DEBAR'S POWER.

She is Trying to Make Lawyer Marsh Marry Her.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Mme. Diss DeBar intends to make Luther R. Marsh, the noted lawyer, marry her. The two are now in this city in company with "Dr." Lawrence. The woman has lately transmitted to Mr. Marsh what purported to be messages from the spirit world, which command him to marry her. That Mr. Marsh will comply with the command if left alone, none of his friends doubt for a moment. An effort will be made, however, to keep the two apart, and it is not improbable that the spook medium will be arrested for vagrancy under the old Massachusetts witchcraft law. Marsh's legal friends in New York have been communicated with and if the family will consent a writ de lunatico inquirendo will be taken out. His friends claim that he is a monomaniac on the subject of spiritualism and that this woman, although a notorious fraud, has a most powerful hold on him, is patent to any one.

For Mailing Obscene Matter.

TOPEKA, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A. J. Burdick, chief enrolling clerk of the senate, was arrested this afternoon by United States Marshal Dan Wyatt, on a warrant sworn out before the United States commissioner, charging him with sending obscene matter through the mails. It is charged that Burdick addressed a shockingly indecent communication to a woman residing in this city. The letter was unsigned, but with it was enclosed in an envelope addressed "Mrs. A. Mallon, care of A. J. Burdick, enrolling clerk of the state senate." After considering the matter for several days the woman turned the letter over to the United States authorities who worked the matter up. The affair has created very much of a sensation in this city.

The Democratic Candidates Elected.

ST. JOSEPH, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The unofficial returns from the six counties comprising the Fourth congressional district, show R. P. C. Wilson, of Platte county, and Charles T. Bolher, of Andrew county, democratic nominess for the long and short term, respectively, to succeed Colonel James N. Burnes, are elected by a small majority. Frank M. Rosegate carried St. Joseph by a majority of 1,023, and Buchanan county by 250. The returns at republican headquarters show the election of the democratic candidates by 250, and at the democratic headquarters 1,000 majority is claimed.

Munificent Bequests.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The will of Amelia Kerr, widow of Herbert Kerr, was filed today, and among others makes the following bequests: To the Lincoln university of Oxford, Pa., $25,000, to found a Henry A. Kerr professorship in each branch, as the university may select; to the Presbyterian board of relief for disabled ministers, $25,000; to the board of missions for the freedom of the Presbyterian church in the United States, $25,000; to the board of home missions, $10,000; to the Union theological seminary, $10,000; to the Women's Union missionary society of America for heathen lands, $5,000.

Aimed at the Beef Combine.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The house devoted the whole day to the discussion of the bill which is aimed at the alleged dressed beef combine. It requires the appointment of a meat inspector and bars dressed beef out of the state by requiring all meat to be slaughtered within two miles of the city wherein it is sold. A vigorous fight was made upon the bill on the ground that it was in the interest of local butchers, but it was finally passed by a vote of 65 to 47.

IOWA TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE

Considering the Advisability of Starting a New Crusade.

THE PRESENT LAW'S WEAK POINT.

It Has Never Become a Part of the Constitution and is Therefore Liable to Total Annihilation.

The Prohibs are Alarmed.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The annual meeting of the State Temperance alliance began here to-night. A number of topics bearing on the enforcement of prohibition will be discussed. The president of the alliance, Rev. Dr. Fellows, of Manchester, delivered his annual address to-night. In an interview he said that a number of the leading temperance people of the state are considering the subject of having another prohibition amendment submitted to the people. The old amendment, adopted June 30, 1882, was declared invalid by the supreme court on a technicality. Thereupon the legislature passed the present prohibition law, which could, of course, be repealed by any succeeding legislature. Some of the temperance people are afraid that the anti-prohibitionists might speak in some year and capture the legislature and thus upset the whole thing. They think that prohibition would never be really safe until it was engrafted in the constitution, and so they want to see it put there. It would take about three years for it to run the gauntlet of two legislatures and be submitted to the people, and Dr. Fellows thinks that it would carry by 75,000 majority instead of the 30,000 it had before. The prohibitionists have not positively decided to begin the agitation for another crusade of this sort, but they are beginning to feel public sentiment on the subject.

Highwaymen Indicted.

AVOCA, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special to THE BEE.] The grand jury now in session in this city brought in an indictment last night against Betts and Windom, on charge of robbery. In the latter part of December, a young German of this city was approached by a man and asked if he wanted employment. The foreigner responded in the affirmative, and the alleged employer, having represented himself as one of the well-to-do farmers of the valley, living near Oakland, proposed that they start for home. They took the evening train south and upon arriving at Oakland started to walk in the direction of the home of the farmer whose name had been given. When about a mile out they were confronted by a masked highwayman, loaded to the gunwale with revolvers, who demanded their brains or cash. The young German forked over what collateral he had about him, together with a certificate of deposit for $25 in the Avoca bank, and made a bee line for the town. He, however, noticed that the highwayman and his alleged employer walked off together, apparently dividing the spoils. Upon arrival in Oakland he told his story and a party started in pursuit of the pair. They were captured several days afterward near Carson, held for preliminary examination and bound over to await the action of the grand jury, which has just brought in the indictment given above. They are a pretty tough looking pair.

A Dubuque Sensation.

DUBUQUE, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—When the hour approached to-day for the funeral of Robert Palmer a brakeman recently killed by the cars, there was a startling sensation at his residence in this city. A woman clad in deep mourning approached the house and demanded to see her dear husband, as she called him. The wibow of Palmer refused to admit her, and a stormy scene followed. The stranger was finally driven away, but she reappeared at the Congregational church, where the scene was repeated, as the stranger demanded to see the dead man in his coffin, but was refused.

It appears that Palmer had been twice married, and the stranger was wife No. 1, Amanda J. Morris, to whom he was married at Waterloo in 1880. The second wife was Nellie Snyder, to whom he was married in DeSoto, Wis., in 1886. Wife No. 1 has filed application to be appointed administratrix of the estate, and wife No. 2 has filed notice that she will contest the same. A lively complication seems inevitable. It is stated that Palmer supposed wife No. 1 was dead when he married No. 2, No. 1 having left him some time before.

The Railroad Conference.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Prominent officials of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road and of the Rock Island road held a conference with the railroad commissioners to-day. Their meeting was for the purpose of seeing what attitude the commissioners would take toward them, and what concessions might be expected. The Burlington people did most of the talking to-day, being represented by General Traffic Manager Rypley and General Freight Agent Paul Morton. They assured the commissioners that if there were no reductions in Iowa rates they should have to reduce inter-state rates accordingly, and that meant a very severe loss. While not asking specifically for the Illinois commissioners' rates, Mr. Morton said that they would like reductions that would practically put them on the same basis. To-morrow the Rock Island men will be heard.

Will Be Married To-Day.

MISSOURI VALLEY, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Colonel S. W. Hart, of Logan, and Miss Anna Kerns, of Missouri Valley, are to be married to-morrow evening, February 20, at this place. Miss Kerns is a musician and a lady of high standing. Colonel Hart is one of Governor Larrabee's staff. The couple will take a short trip through the west.

A Knights of Pythias Banquet.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The silver anniversary of the Knights of Pythias was appropriately celebrated here to-night. Public exercises with speeches by prominent citizens preceded a banquet at the Aborn house, which was handsomely decorated for the occasion. A number of visiting knights from out of the city were present.

Heir to $140,000.

MASON CITY, Ia., Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—H. W. Vandyke, proprietor of the Minnie Douglass Opera company, now traveling through this section, by the death of his uncle yesterday fell heir to $140,000.

The Hippolyte Arsenal Steamer.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The alleged Hippolyte arsenal steamer, Madrid, now known as the Conserva, which sailed from this port last Saturday for San Domingo, returned here this morning. The Haytien minister had libelled her in the United States courts in Brooklyn and United States marshals seized her and brought her back. An inventory of her cargo will be taken.

A Wisconsin Central Wreck.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—An outgoing suburban passenger train on the Wisconsin Central railroad collided with a freight train this evening, owing to an open switch. The passenger engine and baggage car and the freight caboose were badly wrecked. The passengers were shaken up considerably, but none seriously injured.

A BUREAU OF HARBORS.

A Proposed New Branch of the War Department.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Representative Laffoon, from the committee on expenditures in the war department, to-day reported to the house a substitute for the bill introduced by G. R. Breckinridge, providing for the creation in the war department of a bureau of harbors and waterways, to undertake all river and harbor improvements. The substitute provides for the creation of such department, to be officered by a corps of United States civil engineers composed of an equal number of military officers and civilians. In its report accompanying the bill the committee says that the time has come to inaugurate a definite policy with regard to national public works, and to provide a specific agency for its execution. Grave evils have been charged against the legislative and administrative methods and these charges have gathered force with each passing year. Mere changes in the methods of making appropriations or in the administrative system, or in both, will not be sufficient. The report says that the theory of the present bill is to provide an advisory as well as administrative agency. The country is divided into districts or divisions, each embracing certain related works or groups of works, in charge of a division engineer. Several divisions are embraced in the proposed department, which is to be under an advisory board, and this board is to make final recommendations to congress through the secretary of war.

THE OMNIBUS BILL.

An Agreement Finally Reached by the Conferees.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—After many hours' consultation the conferees on the omnibus territorial bill reached a conclusion this evening, and Messrs. Plait and Springer are preparing a report to accompany the return of the bill to the two houses to-morrow.

The bill, as agreed to by the conferees, fixes the name of the two Dakotas as North Dakota and South Dakota. The people of South Dakota are to vote upon the adoption of the Sioux Falls constitution on May 14, and the location of the capital will be settled by election. On the same date the residents of North Dakota, Washington and Montana may vote for the election of delegates to constitutional conventions and for a full list of state officers, and on the first Tuesday in October the people may vote upon the constitutions proposed by the conventions, and if adopted, enter a president's proclamation to that effect.

The governors of each may order the election of members of the legislature and representatives in congress. The legislatures may meet and elect two senators each in time to take their seats at the beginning of the Fifty-first congress, in December next, at which time the representatives shall also be admitted to seats. These provisions apply also to the senators and representatives of South Dakota.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

No Immediate Prospect of a Satisfactory Settlement.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—In spite of continued negotiations, a settlement of the cabinet crisis appears as distant as ever. The failure of Meline indicates the absolute impossibility of forming a cabinet on Ferryist or opportunist lines. President Carnot to-day offered the premiership to Tirard, only to be met with another refusal. He then summoned Meline, whom he urged to make another effort, but he again declined to undertake the task. President Carnot summoned Senator Magnin, former minister, and a well accredited report says that the president strongly inclines toward a cabinet formed mainly of senators, conceiving that such a ministry would have a better prospect of securing general support than a government composed of more pronounced members of the chamber, but late this evening nothing had been settled.

Ex-President Grevy has been taken suddenly ill. It is feared his constitution will break down.

It was reported at midnight that De Freycinet had been approached with a view to forming a cabinet, and that he has promised to give an answer to-morrow.

Nebraska and Iowa Patents.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Patents were issued to-day to the following citizens of Nebraska: Allie Baugher, Tobias, potato planter attachment; James Gilbert, assignor of one-half to C. E. Lee, Omaha, gas generating furnace; James F. Thomas, Alexandria, side spring for vehicles; Nebraskus H. Barnes, Wahoo, heating drum or radiator.

Iowa: Matthias B. Banowetz, Brown's Station, Ia., corn or cotton stalk cutter; Theodore W. Ivory, Glenwood, Ia., mail bag lock; David P. Kisner, Manly, Ia., combined fork and spoon; Stewart R. Mace, Moulton, Ia., liquid holding vessel; George W. McKinney, Marshalltown, Ia., barb feeding mechanism for barb wire machines; Otto Saar, Council Bluffs, Ia., wire reel; Christian C. Schwaner, Winterset, Ia., halter square; John J. Seifert, Gilmore City, Ia., heat protector for bake ovens; Alexander Sime and W. M. Moore, Emmetsburg, Ia., gate latch.

The Trunk Line Presidents.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The trunk line board of presidents had under consideration to-day the alleged manipulation of rates on traffic from western points, via Peoria and other competitive junctions, and the action of the Peoria board of trade in boycotting the inspection of billing. The trunk lines have agreed not to continue the joint rate or other tariff arrangements with connecting roads engaged in the manipulations and devices which clearly violate recent agreements and the interstate commerce law. In order to be assured that freight is hereafter correctly billed at published tariff rates and correct weights they have also further agreed to make it a condition of the continuance of the joint tariff arrangements that the joint inspectors shall examine way billing and weights and correct the same wherever found improper, and have ordered such inspection put in effect at once.

Train Robbers Foiled.

CINCINNATI, O., Feb. 19.—A morning paper gives an account of an attempt to wreck a train last Friday night for the purpose of robbery, which has hitherto been concealed. It says that a big pile of ties was placed on the Louisville & Nashville road near Walton, Ky., to wreck the Cannon train due here that night, but the train was going at such a high rate of speed that the shock broke the tie which was to lock the pile together and the train passed in safety. It is surmised that the robbers knew the train had a car load of government silver dollars from New Orleans to Washington, and they wanted to wreck the train for that. There were nearly one hundred people aboard the train.

A Brilliant Affair.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Covers were laid for 250 guests at the fourth annual banquet of the Ohio society at Delmonico's to-night. The dinner was delayed some time in anticipation of the arrival of Senator Sherman and Congressman McKinley, but their failure to put in an appearance was the occasion of general regret. Major Swayne presided. Letters of regret were received from Joseph D. Taylor, W. S. Rosecrans, Robert C. Schenck, R. B. Hayes and Sunset Cox. Addresses were made by A. Minor Griswold, General Charles H. Grosvenor, Cornelius N. Bliss and General Roger A. Pryor. The latter spoke in the absence of President Calhoun, of the southern society, and paid a glowing tribute to the south.

The Last Cabinet Dinner

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—President and Mrs. Cleveland were entertained at dinner to-night by Secretary and Mrs. Vilas. It was the last of the cabinet dinners of the present administration.

THE TARIFF REFORM LEAGUE.

Cleveland Sends His Regrets and Applauds Its Aims.

HENRY GEORGE WAS THERE.

He Holds a Little Levee With a Small Group of Admirers—Hon. J. Sterling Morton Explains His Faith.

A Pennsylvania Free Trader.

CHICAGO, Feb., 19.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The opening session of the National Tariff Reform league which was held this afternoon, was very slimly attended. Mr. E. Buritt Smith, of Chicago, called the few delegates to order, and after a few words read the following letter from President Cleveland:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 1889.—John Z. White, Secretary, Etc.—Dear Sir: I have received the invitation of the Tariff Reform league to be present at the convention of tariff reformers to be held in the city of Chicago on the 19th and 20th of February, 1889. I have also read the circular of the league accompanying this invitation in which the objects and purposes of the proposed convention are specifically set forth. The scheme of practical and efficient work therein described meets with my hearty approval and promises, if honestly adhered to, a most valuable aid in the furtherance of the cause which is very near to the interests and welfare of our people. The danger which we have to guard against is the misleading of our countrymen by specious theories, cunningly contrived and falsely offering to the people relief from the present burdens and legitimate expense necessary to secure the benefits of a beneficient rule under the sanction of free institutions. The declared purposes of your league will not be attained until those interested in the economic question which is now pressed upon their attention are free from all sophistries and cloudy fallacies, and until the subject of tariff reform is presented to them as a topic involving the relief of the plain people of the land in their homes from useless and unjust expense. The question is a simple and plain one, and needs but to be fairly presented to be understood. It is the positive duty of your organization to guard the people against deception. My extreme interest in the work which your league has undertaken, and in the expressed objects of the proposed convention, would lead me to accept your invitation if it were possible to do so. But my public duties here positively prevent such acceptance. Hoping that the convention will be very successful, and with an earnest wish for the prosperity and success of your league in its efforts to enlighten and benefit the people, I am yours very truly,

GROVER CLEVELAND.

The letter was loudly applauded and the convention then went on with the proceedings. Before the convention was called to order some very funny discussions occurred among the delegates in the hall. The question seemed to be,