IGNORING THE TESTIMONY.

Commissioners Decide That Abuse of Paupers is not Wrong.

THEY USE THE WHITEWASH.

Architect Meyers Does Not Come in For Any Share of Their Good Will—Other Business Transacted.

County Commissioners.

It was quite an important meeting, that of the session of the board of county commissioners yesterday afternoon. The Mahoney investigation matter on the charges made by THE BEE came up, and at one time during the meeting it seemed apparent that Architect Meyers, for his conduct on the county hospital, would be discharged.

When Chairman Mount called the members to order, Mr. O'Keeffe stated that Mr. Rosewater was present for the purpose of addressing the commission, and Mr. Mount requested the editor of THE BEE to make his statement. Mr. Rosewater said:

"Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the board. During my absence from the city an investigation of the published charges in regard to mismanagement and cruelty to the inmates of the poor farm has taken place. I understand that the investigation has closed, and I want to say that, inasmuch as the investigation was not of a criminal character, but merely an inquiry into the conduct of one of your officers, any additional information throwing light upon the subject matter of inquiry ought, in my opinion, to be received and added to whatever testimony you have collected.

"On my return I find that one affidavit has been made since the trial, based on a letter from a party making certain specific charges in regard to Mrs. Mahoney's treatment of the inmates. I want to file this affidavit and letter and the documents that were in our possession in the first place, and were the basis of the charges that have been made.

"I want it understood by your honorable board, as well as by the community, that there has been no malice in the conduct of THE BEE as far as this matter is concerned. It has been stated in one of the Omaha dailies, and I read the article while away, that the county printing entered into this investigation. I want to say that while the newspapers have the privilege of giving any interpretation to what has been done in this connection, I will prove definitely that the county printing had not the remotest influence on the charges that were preferred. More than six months ago complaints reached us in regard to the conduct of the poor farm, and some of your honorable body are doubtless aware of the fact that we detailed one of our men, for two years president of the printers' union, and had him sent to the poor farm as a pauper to ascertain for ourselves what there was in the complaints. When this man had been there two or three days, for some reason unknown to us, another person was sent to the poor farm, whose business was to dog our man and interfere with his inquiry and prevent, if possible, any investigation that would put us in possession of any facts that the inmates and employes of the poor farm would testify to, so that the matter had to be dropped.

"In view of the fact that this attempt to learn the true inwardness of affairs at the poor farm was made months before there was any competition over the county printing, no connection between that and the action of THE BEE can be established.

"When you gentlemen look over the affidavits and other papers that were on the desk of the editor of THE BEE your judgment will be that we would have been direlict in our duty as journalists had we not given the publicity to the matter that we did, and called public attention to the abuses that were detailed in those papers.

"I will read that portion of this affidavit that I consider competent, omitting the opinion of the affiant. It is:

I, Elise Swanson, first being duly sworn upon my oath, do say that I was an inmate of the Douglas county hospital and poor house during October, November, December, 1887, and January, February and March, 1888; that I know Mrs. John J. Mahoney and that she was at that time known as matron of the hospital; that I gave birth to a female child there and that such child was adopted by a lewd woman with the consent of Mrs. John J. Mahoney and without my knowing the character of such woman; and it was only after much difficulty I regained possession of my child. Mrs. Mahoney is possessed of a violent temper, and habitually uses indecent language in addressing inmates. I have heard her use the most obscene epithets in addressing inmates and employes of the institution. During my stay at the poor farm I was in a position to judge of the fitness or unfitness of Mrs. Mahoney for the position of matron, and, in my opinion, owing to her violent temper, naturally harsh disposition and total disregard for the sickness and sufferings of the poor, she is totally unfit for the position she now holds.

ELISE SWANSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of April, 1889.

W. P. MUMAUGH,
Notary Public.

"And here is a letter which I wish you would consider in connection with the balance of the papers:

"I must say that no one with the slightest regard for humanity could have lightly passed over the testimony that was laid before THE BEE. Abuses in public institutions are common. We had before us an instance that came under our observation some years ago. At that time charges were made against the matron of the deaf and dumb institute here. I went out to the institute with a reporter and we ascertained that the matron had been very cruel to the boys and girls under her care. We published the fact and the state board in control of the institution discharged the matron and superintendent. There was no charge against the superintendent, only he was the husband of the matron and had to go with her.

"I have nothing against Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney personally, have never seen the lady, and I could not identify her if she stood before me. I have no personal grudge against Mr. Mahoney and no disposition to wrong him, but as a newspaper man, and particularly as the editor of a paper that has never suppressed any facts connected with the mismanagement of public institutions that have been disclosed to it, I thought it my duty to make these facts known, and it is for you to decide, on all evidence whether the institution has been properly conducted. I will leave the paper with you."

Here are the letters to which reference was made:

LINCOLN, Neb., March 12, 1889.—To the Editor of THE BEE: I noticed an article last week about the county house business, and feeling it my duty to let the public know for the benefit of poor suffering humanity, I write. I went to the county house the 1st day of September, two years ago. Mr. Timme employed me as nurse at $20 a month and board for myself and little girl. Having my living to make was very glad of the position, and as I have a great sympathy for suffering people I thought I might do some good in that capacity. I have had a great experience in nursing. The first day at the county house I saw Mrs. Mahoney was not fit for the position of matron, but I thought I would help her a great deal and if she had been a good woman we could have got along all right. But that terrible disposition of hers! I thought at first I would try and get along with her, but the more I saw of her abuse the worse I felt like crying to God for some deliverance for these poor people. My little girl was five years old and was treated shamefully; was abused when she would happen to be with one of her children. We were not allowed to eat at the same table nor the same food. I was ordered to wait on her all the time I was there, carrying slop and drudging for her and her children. There was a very sick girl by the name of Johanna, and I was not allowed time enough to wait on her. I have seen her take a little girl by the hair and throw her across the yard. The feelings that woman gave me I have not got over yet and never will. Mr. Mahoney brought a poor sick man to the hospital one day and dragged him out of the wagon on the ground and he was dying as they dragged him into the dead house and were dissecting him at once. Two girls were compelled to cook when they were not able to stand up. Her little boy used to taunt the poor people shamefully. There was clothing for the nursery when Mrs. Mahoney went there for I saw it. When I told her about some things I saw her do she would put her hand on her breast and tell me to mind my own business. She was matron. I could tell a great deal more if it were necessary. I only hope the taxpayers will take heed and put some one that has a heart and conscience to take care of them poor people. I never think of them poor creatures but I think of the way they have to live. I knew her to refuse decent food for the sick. She would not let them have butter and I stole butter and milk for the ones that could not eat coarse food. Please excuse my blunders.

[Signed] K. GALLAGHER,
1432 P street, Lincoln.

OMAHA, March 22, 1889.—To the Editor of THE OMAHA BEE: I have been an interested reader of your paper during the poor house expose, with conflicting emotions. Want of moral courage to speak and what I know to be my duty to tell what I know to be true have kept me back. And if it will be the means of saving one poor unfortunate from that bad, cruel, dreadful woman, Mrs. Mahoney, I shall be amply repaid. I speak without fear or favor. I want nothing. Over one year ago I hired there to cook, not expecting an inquisition or place of torture, but a haven of rest for the weary and heavy laden. Since that time the mention of county commissioners or poor house has been connected in my mind with anything low and degraded. I think it was better at that time than now, as Dr. Devries was all that could be wished as a kind, humane physician, and had a strong will and kept Mrs. Mahoney very much in check. I kept saying all the time, "Truth is mighty and will prevail," yet I feared it would not. But the mills of the Gods, etc. Now, it is this way: If I can be of any use; if there is not enough without me, if I can do the cause of humanity any good, I am willing. If you can get along without me I shall be more than glad. Thrown from affluence into poverty, with all its attendant afflictions, I do not court notoriety or publicity in any form; in fact, dread it more than you can imagine. My address is No. 535 South Twenty-fifth avenue, Omaha.

[Signed] NURSE OF MRS. POLLACK.

State of Nebraska, County of Hall, ss.—L. E. A. Hughes being first sworn on his oath deposeth and sayeth as follows: I was an inmate of the Douglas county poor farm for nearly three years prior to August, 1888, and was there during Mr. Mahoney's time. I was there when an old woman named Margaret died, and cut her hair a few days before she died. She was litterally matted with lice. I not only cut her hair but that of several others who were helpless in the sick room, being unable to care for themselves, and who were in the same condition, both bed and body being covered with lice. Some parties were crazy and other sick. The washing was not properly done, and I have been compelled, when making my semi-weekly change of clothing, to put on clothing that was nearly as dirty as those I took off. I have known of several cases where the sheets on some of the beds were not changed for three weeks. I have seen meat placed on the table which was not fit to eat, which I have been unable to eat on account of the stench from it. The first time I had butter when Mr. Mahoney had charge was the day of the sale of the poor farm lots. Mrs. Mahoney came and took the butter away before we were through eating, and said she would have to save it for their table, meaning the family table. I have seen crazy inmates who did not have enough clothing on to keep them warm. I have seen crazy inmates beaten by the employes for very slight offenses, with clubs or any other weapon that was handy, until they bled from half a dozen cuts. I remember several cases where women with child were compelled to work in the laundry or scrubbing until within a few hours of their delivery. I saw Mr. Mahoney's boy push an old woman off the sidewalk, who fell on her face, cutting it badly and bruising her. I saw her tantalize and abuse other helpless inmates. I saw one who had charge knock an old man down with a club because he did not obey some order he gave him.

Signed this 20th day of March, 1889.

L. E. A. HEGHES.

Witness: W. S. Dickason, Charles A. Goodman.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 20th day of March. [Signed]

W. R. BACON, Notary Public.

There were a lot of other letters, which haveal ready been published in THE BEE, that Mr. Rosewater introduced.

On motion of Mr. Anderson this additional evidence was referred to the construction committee to which the Mahoney investigation matter had been referred. The committee made the following report, which was adopted:

"Mr. Chairman: Your committee to which was referred the charges of THE OMAHA BEE, per James B. Haynes, managing editor, against Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney, superintendent and matron of the poor farm, would respectfully report that having read the charges and having heard the verbal testimony, and also having read the same in full, we do find that the charges made by said James B. Haynes, for THE OMAHA BEE, against Mr. and Mrs. John J. Mahoney, are not sustained, and that therefore, we recommend that Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney be exonerated from all blame as charged."

Before any action was taken on the report there was considerable discussion.

"I want to object to the word 'all' in the last line," remarked Mr. Turner. "I think we are going a little too far, and would move that word be stricken out. We don't know what may be brought out in future."

"If there was any part of the charges sustained," said Mr. Corrigan, "I would like to know it."

Mr. Anderson moved that the report be adopted and was seconded by Mr. O'Keeffe, who said that on the reading of the evidence in open session, a ballot was taken on the question put by him as chairman, as to whether or not Mr. and Mrs. Mahony had been exonerated and that the report was made on the five affirmative votes cast. Mr. Anderson said that the only thing that the board was called upon to decide was what the evidence had shown.

The report was then adopted.

Mr. O'Keeffe introduced the following resolution in regard to Architect Myers' negligence:

Resolved, That inasmuch as E. E. Myers has failed to conform to the wishes of the board as shown in resolutions of March 16 and 30, and in various telegrams sent him, and has and does show a disposition to evade the requests made as above. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the board proceed to appoint another architect in his stead to furnish the necessary plans and specifications to carry the county hospital to completion, the same to be done at his expense.

The resolution was the subject of much debate. Mr. Corrigan wanted it referred to the county attorney for an opinion as to its legality.

Mr. O'Keeffe was very emphatic in denouncing Myers for the support of the resolution. He stated that Myers evidently believed that the board was composed of a set of fools. "This is a fact, or we would have bounced him long ago," said Mr. O'Keeffe, "for he has been humbugging us too long." Another telegram from the architect was read by the clerk, asking if his presence was really needed at the hospital. This occasioned another outburst of harsh talk against Myers. Mr. O'Keeffe said that the hospital was never visited, unless some of his mistakes were found. The motion of Mr. Corrigan was carried, and it was further ordered that a complete copy of the records in so far as they refer to Myers' work, be furnished the county attorney, and for him to report at the next meeting.

Attorneys for Humphrey, Ketcham & Co., contractors on the iron work for the county hospital building, presented a bill for $408.66 for extra work. The matter was referred to the judiciary committee.

The report of E. E. Myers, architect of the county hospital, in reference to the construction and work of that institution, which was published in THE BEE a few days ago, was not read by the clerk when the report was brought up. It was placed on file.

The petitions of Egbert Off and August Rathmann for a license to sell liquors at Bennington, was referred to the judiciary committee.

Samuel I. Pope & Co., steam heaters, submitted a list of materials furnished for the county infirmary building, the amount of which is $2,593.60. The list was referred to the construction committee.

The county surveyor was instructed to mark or indicate all additions to the city on the maps used by the board.

By the adoption of a resolution introduced by Mr. Turner the county clerk was instructed to advertise for bids for running grades No. 1 and No. 2 for this season. The advertisement will be inserted in THE BEE daily for three weeks, aside from the official county paper.

The quarterly report of the register of deeds, the county judge, the county clerk, the superintendent of public instruction and the treasurer, which were published in THE BEE a few days ago, were referred to the financial committee.

Appropriations amounting to $15.75 were allowed and the board adjourned to meet Wednesday afternoon, when the Myers' trouble will be disposed of.

A BIMETTALIC CONFERENCE.

Harrison Favors the Establishment of a Uniform Standard.

THE OFFICE SEEKERS SOAKED.

They Wade Through Mud and Rain to the Presidential Residence—Senator Sherman to Take a Vacation.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6.

General Harrison favors another international conference for the establishment of a uniform bimettalic standard of money. The last one was held in 1881 and did not result in the accomplishment of what was desired. It is the purpose of this administration to urge the necessity of an international standard for gold and silver by which a gold or silver dollar will be worth the same the world over. This would in a large degree obviate the necessity of our present monetary exchange and bills of credit system.

THE WASHINGTON ASYLUM.

A demand has been made upon the district commissioners for an investigation into the management of the Washington asylum. It is alleged that there has been gross mismanagement of this institution extending down through the poor house and the farm on which vagrants are worked. It is alleged that wholesale orderf have been issued from time to time for whisky and brandy, and that it has been used freely by the inmates.

THE NORTHWESTERN BOOM.

Northwestern men in Washington are making calculations for an enormous emigration into their section of country during the next year. On account of the opening to settlement of a number of Indian reservations, over thirty-three million acres of lands have by acts of the last congress been thrown open to settlement already, or will be opened within the next few months. Seventeen million acres are open already in Montana through the relinquishment of Indian claims upon the great northern reservation, and 5,000,000 acres in the Red Lake, Chippewa and other reservations in Minnesota, while the Dakota people are confident that the great Sioux Indian reservation, located in the southern part of their territory, between the Missouri river and the Black Hills, and on the northern boundary of Nebraska, containing in all 11,000,000 acres of land, will be opened within a few months by the president's proclamation. Undoubtedly this vast expanse of country will cause a great tide of immigration. There were quite a number of Dakota real estate dealers here with their plats of edditions to Pierre, and other places in their country, and they are disposing of interests in town sites rapidly. As soon as the Sioux reservation is opened four or five railroads will commence building into Pierre, and then on to Deadwood, and with the improvements which are to follow statehood for the Dakotas, considerable real estate excitement is predicted.

WASHINGTON WEATHER.

Snow and rain commingled and made a down-pour during all of to-day. The streets and sidewalks were several inches deep with slush, and those who wended their way to the white house made a personal as well as a private sacrifice. The heavy weather has disabled the telegraph wires in many instances, and in view of the predictions of the observatory that it is to freeze late to-night, and become quite cold, the telegraphic service in this section will undoubtedly grow worse. There were not many callers upon President Harrison, and very little was accomplished in the way of office getting. The president's public exception was attended by about one hundred people, and many of these were dripping wet from the rain and snow. President and Mrs. Harrison have at last concluded to spend Sunday in the white house. They secretly hoped, up to the last, that they might get away on a cruise down the river. There are not over sixty or seventy-five republicans in congress lingering about Washington, and it is expected that office-seekors for a while will practically suspend in comparison with what has been taking place during the last month.

IOWA POSTMASTERS APPOINTED TO-DAY.

Sheldon M. Webster, Bonair, Howord county, vice Fred Shumaker, resigned; A. Kaufman, Four Corners, Jefferson county, vice John Leafgreen, resigned; J. A. Patterson, Sulphur Springs, Buena Vista county, vice J. O. Douglas, removed; Mrs. Nettie Rath, Wayland, Henry county, vice S. W. Wyse, removed; Calvin Bray, West Chester, Washington county, vice Joseph Lutes, removed; W. J. Lancelot, Gray, Audabon county, vice B. L. Obeck, removed; F. G. Martin, Lexington, Washington county, vice William Kirkpatrick, removed; Charles H. Sands, Mallards, Palo Alto county, vice William Hackenberg, removed; Charles J. Samples, Mt. Sterling, Van Buren county, vice Miss L. N. Galbert, removed; James E. Steffler, Prale, Warren county, vice John H. Cash, removed; George Howland, Rockwell, Cerro county, vice H. M. Laughlin, removed; William S. Sloan, Rodman, Palo Alto county, vice M. S. Fetz, removed.

NEBRASKA POSTMASTERS.

Nicodemus Chaney was appointed postmaster at Davey, Lancaster county, Neb., vice Patrick Dore, resigned. The postoffice at Otis, Hamilton county, will be discontinued April 20 because of no candidate.

SHERMAN'S VACATION.

Senator John Sherman intends to take a long rest this summer. He has been exhausting his physical pswers with work for several years, and it has begun to tell upon him severely. With Mrs. Sherman and Miss Mary Sherman he will sail from New York on the steamer City of New York on May 1. A number of family relatives and friends will sail with the Shermans. The latter will be absent until some time in September.

INSPECTOR OF FURNITURE.

Colonel H. L. Swords, of Iowa, who was sergeant-at-arms to the national republican committee during the late campaign, and who has been prominently mentioned for the same position in United States senate when that body is reorganized next fall, has been appointed inspector of furniture in the treasury department. The position is an influential one, and will give him an opportunity to do much traveling.

ARMY ORDERS.

By direction of the secretary of war Private Jay W. Wells, Seventh infantry, now on the temporary duty at Fort Robinson, is transferred to company C, Eighth infantry, stationed at that post.

Captain Thomas G. Troxel, Seventeenth infantry, will report in person to Brigadier General John R. Broke, president of the army retiring board at Omaha, for examination by the board.

PERRY S. HEATH.

AMUSEMENTS.

Mme. Emma Albani, before her recent sojourn of five years in Europe, was regarded in America as one of the greatest sopranos living, and since her numerous lyric triumphs in that country, she is now held by Americans as the greatest of the world's sopranos. At every public appearance in the east she was accorded an ovation. In Boston, where she appeared first after her return, a famous critic said: "No musical event of late years in Boston has created such enthusiasm as the singing of Mme. Albani at her first concert. At the conclusion of her numbers the whole house rose at once, and the deafening shouts and applause shook the great building to its foundations. It was a scene not to be forgotten in a lifetime." In her concert at the Boyd next Tuesday evening Mme. Albani will be supported by the following artists: Miss Grace Damain, contralto, Signor Massimi, tenor, Mr. Barrington, Foote, baso; Mr. Conrad Ansorge, pianist, and Mr. Barrett, solo flutist. The company carries its own orchestra, which is under the conductorship of Signer Bevignani. A special programme of fourteen numbers has been arranged for the concert at the Boyd.

The bright commedienne, Lotta, will be at the Boyd on next Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening, and will produce Greene and Bilasco's fine comedy, "Pawn Ticket No. 210." No actress on the American stage can approach this saucy little madcap in her peculiar field.

For years Hoyt's comedy "A Bunch of Keys," has jingled to an accompaniment of laughter in nearly every city of the union, and it is still an incentive to merriment. The keys will unlock the doors of humor at Boyd's opera house next Wednesday evening.

SOUTH OMAHA.

Good Will K. of L. Banquet.

A happier lot of society fraternals and a better pleased lot of brother members were never seen than were the members of Good Will lodge, No. 3,750, Knights of Honor, and their visiting guests Saturday night. Fifty members from Omaha and Fremont accepted the invitation of Good Will lodge and they were royally received and entertained. Headed by the Union Stock Yards cornet band, Good Will lodge marched to the depot and met the visitors and escorted them to the lodge rooms. After music by the band addresses were made by Dictator Henry L. Smith, Thomas G. McGrain, Thomas Falconer, Grand Dictator W. H. White, of Fremont; J. B. Bruner, D. S. M. Fretwell, P. J. Quealey and C. J. Menter, of Omaha, and Dr. Abbott, of Fremont. Adjourning to the Delmonico, where a sumptuous banquet had been spread, Toastmaster George J. Seltzer called on Dictator Henry L. Smith to answer "Why We Meet." Grand Dictator W. A. White, "The Widows and Orphans." "Charity," by Dr. Abbott. "The Board of Trade," by David Anderson. "Visit to Fremont," by Charles R. Burgess. "Good Will," by Jacob Bielstein. "Our Insurance," by Thomas Falconer, and "South Omaha," by Samuel P. Brigham. Good Will lodge did worthy of herself, did an honor to the city and feels justly proud over the success.

Proceedings of the School Board.

President F. J. Persons, Secretary John C. Carroll and Messrs. Thomas Ryan and C. T. Van Aken were present and David Hobon and John A. MacMurphy absent, when the school board met Saturday afternoon. The minutes were approved. Principal Munroe reported the primary departments crowded and recommended securing more room. The committee reported Secretary Carroll's books were correct. The following bills were ordered paid: C. B. Harens & Co., $30.50; J. H. Chittenden, $11.19; P. S. McAulay, $45; J. E. Hart, $5; Willmore Davis, $2.50; Erion & Rich, $5.40; John Casey, $3.50; Drovers Journal, $4.80; A. E. Brigham, $7.02; total nine bills, $109.71. Messrs. F. J. Persons and John C. Carroll were appointed to look up Treasurer Gony's grading tax bill. Mr. Van Aken was deputized to secure more room in the First ward for primary pupils. The vacancy in the committee on buildings and grounds was filed by appointing C. T. Van Ahen. The committee on buildings and grounds was authorized to have the high school lot graded and build a story and basement under the high school building. Principal Muroe reported that two additional school rooms will be required in Brown park, in both the Third and Fourth wards. E. C. Condit & Co., of Kansas City, who put in the Rutan heating and ventilating apparatus, will be required to remove the three furnaces and apparatuses at once and return all money received, according to contract.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the president.

Bestial Outrage.

Thursday evening Mark E. Kopek, a domestic in the employ of Justice Levy, went to visit friends who reside on M street between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh streets, and now charges that while there F. Barmbek, L. Zelodk and E. Keske came into a room where she was making a bed and forcibly assaulted her. She made complaint before Justice Levy, charging them with the crime, and Saturday evening the three men were arrested and will have hearings Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Notes About the City.

James H. Lowry will set a fine lunch all day Sunday in the Delmonico bar.

O. E. Mayfield has removed to Mrs. A. C. Wier's building, Twenty-fifth street.

J. B. Smiley, of the commission firm of Hill & Smiley, has returned from a week's western trip.

W. B. Berry has removed his office in with Millspaugh & Persons, under the Nebraska Savings bank.

A. T. Morton will arrive here from Sedgwick, Dak., Monday to make South Omaha his home again.

Rev. J. J. Keller, of Central City, Baptist state missionary will preach Sunday evening in the Baptist church.

Bruno Strathman and Henry Forlander had trouble resulting in blows, and Mr. Strathman will answer to the charge of assault and battery Monday before Judge Reuther.

The members of the South Omaha school board claim that there is about $2,000 in the Omaha school fund belonging to the South Omaha district collected in the disputed district and steps will be taken at once to collect the same.

At the union services to be held at the Third ward school house, Thirty-second and T. streets, Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock the Rev. Robert L. Wheeler will preach. Superintendent E. M. Richardson will hold Sunday school at 3:30 o'clock.

Messrs. William Watson, Charles McAdam and Andrew McAndrew the amusement committee have made out a very interesting programme for the monthly meeting of the Caledonian society Tuesday evening. National music vocal and instrumental and amusements will fill up the evening's entertainment.

Saturday afternoon a horse fastened to a sidewalk plank became frightened and starting, carried the plank along. This frightened two teams and they went tearing up the street. The horse threw the plank against a buggy and broke one of the wheels. The teams were caught before receiving any injury or doing much damage.

POLICE AND FIRE.

Patrolmen Reported For Debt—A Colored Hose Company.

The police and fire commission met yesterday afternoon as a license board and revoked the license of C. Hayeck, convicted of selling whisky on Sunday in violation of the ordinance. An officer was sent to close his place.

The board then met and examined twenty-five applicants for positions in the fire department. The board will recommend names from the parties examined from which vacancies in the fire department will be filled unless ordered otherwise.

Chief Seavey stated to the board that the present rules governing the police department do not seem to meet the public demand in some respects and asked the commission to make certain changes.

One hundred copies of the annual report of the chief of police were ordered.

Officer T. Lee was granted short leave of absence. William Kinzie, grocer at 4602 Cummings street, notified the board that Officer McBride owed him $112, and that it could not be collected. Chief Seavey explained that the officer had been off three weeks on account of sickness in his family of nine children. The letter was placed on file.

Officer Forbes bought $6 worth of goods of a firm and was delinquent in account. This also was filed but brought out an expression to the effect that the commissioners must take notice of recommendations handed in and must see that the rule making refusal by an officer to pay honest debts ground for dismissal, was enforced.

The purchase of a pair of horses for hose truck No. 2 was recommended by the committee and adopted.

The committee reported recommending that the old two-wheeled hose cart should not be given to South Omaha. Adopted and returned to the city clerk with instructions to report decision to the city council.

The petition signed by colored citizens for a colored fire company with house, engine and equipments, including a white captain, was placed on file. It was favorably received by the board and likely to be adopted if funds sufficient are to be had. These names were suggested as members of the company: Granville Jackson, Joseph Banks, Frank Graves, George Grant, C. C. Dishman, Harry Taylor.

The board then went into "executive session."

A New Lighting System.

A new electric light and motor company has been organized in the city. The apparatus it uses is something novel. No dynamo is required. The light is for private residences, and the company proposes to put plants in dwelling houses. Each place will be supplied with a small electric battery, which will make the illumination, which is said to be a soft, white light. The officers of the new company are: T. S. Clarkson, president; Jeff. W. Bedford, vice president; Oliver Briggs, treasurer; W. S. Marr, secretary; C. D. Covelle, general manager; Edwin Walker and J. J. Wells are among the incorporators.

OFFICERS WARNED TO DESIST.

A Desperate Move on the Part of the Iowa Settlers.

SENDING THREATENING LETTERS

The Situation Growing Very Serious and Evictions Abandoned For the Present—White Caps Indicted—Hawkeye Notes.

The River Land Troubles.

FORT DODGE, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Every day adds to the seriousness of the strained situation of the Des Moines River land settlers. Numerous parties connected with the prosecution of the settlers received threatening letters and notices to-day warning them to desist. This greatly intensifies the present excitement. Chancy Pigman, the prosecuting witness in the conspiracy cases against the settlers, and whose farm has been seized by them, has received the following letter:

Chancy Pigman.—Dear Sir: The course you are pursuing is objectionable, and you had better make your peace with your God, as you shall never raise a crop where you are. This is sufficient notice to you. Beware, or h——l will be your fate.

SETTLER.

Pigman was formerly a member of the settler's union, and they evidently fear he will make public some of their secrets. Such threats made some time ago would not have been heeded, but they are now pregnant with the force of desperate and determined men. The settlers' organization is now thoroughly perfected. They are prepared for action. It is greatly feared that they mean just what they say. Recent actions of land owners in forcing evictions and threatening the calling out of the state militia to enforce writs of ejectment have transformed stolid determination to desperate daring. The settlers announce their readiness to die in defense of their homes, but say they will sell their lives as dearly as possible.

In view of the impending trouble evictions have been abandoned for the present. Strangers going into the disturbed districts are stopped by mounted men well armed and made to explain their business before being allowed to proceed. Major J. C. Forsey, of the interior department, while out on swamp land business, experienced some difficulty, and hurriedly returned to this city to await a time of peace.

DES MOINES, Ia., April 6.—The United States marshal's posse that went from here to evict settlers in Hamilton county have returned. The men say that no more attempts will be made at evicting for a few days, as the settlers are prepared to use force and the evictors are not prepared to meet it.

A Glimmer of Hope.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—Following the recommendation of Commissioner Stockslager, the secretary of the interior has requested the attorney general to cause suit to be instituted to recover title to the lands known as the Des Moines river lands in Iowa; provided the attorney general, after examination, is of the opinion that such suit could be maintained, and that such action would be to the interests of the government.

Charged With a Villainous Act.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—O. J. Blodgett, a prominent attorney living at Correctionville, in this county, was bound over to day to the grand jury on a charge of rape. He gave bonds in $3,500. Blodgett was a candidate last fall for the republican nomination for state's attorney, as he was also two years ago. His arrest grows out of a seduction case in which he was attorney for Miss Mary Laid, of Correctionville. It is charged that on the 25th of March, at midnight, Blodgett went to Miss Laid's room at the hotel and secured admission on pretense of important business connected with her case, and that he immediately made an indecent assault upon her. Three witnesses were also produced on the stand, who allege that the next day Blodgett made admissions of the act. Miss Laid was ill for several days as the result of the assault. She is sixteen years old, of prepossessing appearance, and the daughter of a prosperous farmer. Blodgett is a married man forty-two years of age.

A Young Scoundrel Convicted.

MASON CITY, Ia., April 6.—Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The arrest and conviction of Frank Harrison for enticing female minor children away from home for purposes of prostitution has produced a genuine sensation in this city. The girls connected with the disgraceful affair are Mabel and Ada Niles, daughters of the late General G. B. Niles, for many years editor and manager of the Boston Courier. The Niles family moved to this city from Boston three years ago. Harrison, who is only seventeen years of age, enticed them to his home, where he carried on the disgraceful traffic. The conviction of Harrison seems to be only the beginning of a series of prosecutions, in which a number of heretofore respectable people will be interested. It is reported that fourteen warrants have been issued and will be served Monday morning. Mayor J. H. Stevens is behind the prosecution, a sufficient guarantee that the deserving will meet a just punishment.

The Davenport Elections.

DAVENPORT, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—At the city election held here to-day, Ernst Claussen, democratic candidate for mayor, was elected for the seventh time, having 1,200 majority over G. W. Cable, his republican opponent. The democratic candidates for treasurer, assessor and police magistrate were elected, but a split in the vote for the democratic candidate for city clerk, and an independent candidate elected a republican. Prohibition was no issue except between the candidates for mayor. The republicans elected three aldermen on account of the salary grab issue raised by the democrats, and instead of a full democratic board of aldermen, as heretofore, the democrats will have a majority of one in the city council.

A Case of Deliberate Suicide.

DUBUQUE, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—This afternoon, while the passenger train of the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City road was coming the yard, a man was seen walking up the track towards the train. The whistle was blown several times and the man stepped off the track, but immediately returned and was run over. He was cut to pieces. He was a stranger, well dressed, carried a silk umbrella, walked lame and had a pass book bearing the name of Charley Brown. He was about thirty years of age. It is apparently a case of deliberate suicide.

Altogether Too Funny.

DES MOINES, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Ed Wright and N. C. Field, two students at Simpson college, at Indianola, have been expelled for getting up a mock scheme on one of the literary society's exhibitions. The society and faculty were so much offended at the publication that two of the boys supposed to be concerned in it have been arrested and bound over to await the action of the grand jury on a charge of criminal libel.

Cattle Quarantine Raised.

DES MOINES, Ia., April 6.—Governor Larrabee issued a proclamation to-day, reciting the fact that the state veterinary surgeon has informed the executive department that the cause which led to the cattle quarantine against certain states had been removed in some of the states, and revoking all such orders and proclamations except so far as they pertain to Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

Aid for the Fire Sufferers.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A committee of leading Sioux City business men to-day secured subscriptions amounting to $1,200 in aid of prairie fire sufferers in Dakota.

A Railroad Mortgaged.

WATERLOO, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The secretary of the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City railway company was here to-day to place on record mortgages made for the purpose of floating new bonds of the company. The bonds are to draw 4 per cent, and run 100 years. It is expected that they will take the place largely of their 5 per cent bonds, which run fifty years.

Fire at Marengo.

MARENGO, Ia., April 6.—[Special to THE BEE.]—All the sheds belonging to the Iowa County Agricultural society were burned to the ground last night. Loss about $600. A stallion belonging to George Raynor, and valued at $1,800, perished in the flames.

White Caps Indicted.

WATERLOO, Ia., April 6.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The grand jury of Wright county has indicted two well known citizens of Dows for posting a White Cap notice on the door of a certain business man of that place.

CITY COUNCIL.

Regular Meeting Devoted to Consideration of Routine Business.

Councilmen Bailey, Counsman and Ford were absent from last night's meeting of the city council.

A petition asking for the grading of Fifteenth street from Jackson to Leavenworth street was granted.

M. F. Patrick asked for compensation for a strip of land thirty feet wide north of Lake street that has been taken by the city for street purposes.

The request of the Union Pacific to be allowed a staircase to the south side of the Sixteenth street viaduct was referred to the committee on viaducts and railways.

The petition of Superintendent J. A. Gillispie, asking for the grading of the road to the deaf and dumb institute from Saunders street, was referred to the committee on grades and grading.

The petition of Spruce street property owners, asking for the grading of that thoroughfare, was referred to the committee on grades and grading.

A protest, presented by the property owners living south of Mason street against allowing the Union Pacific railway company to construct tracks across the Eleventh street viaduct except under stringent regulations, was referred to the committee on viaducts and railwrys.

A petition for the paving of Farnam street to the belt line was referred to the committee on paving, curbing and guttering.

The official bond of D. J. Rhodes as city weighmaster was referred to the committee on police.

The bond of Ed Phelan for sloping banks was referred to the committee on paving, curbing and guttering.

The list of inspectors appointed by the board of public works was presented to the council. Councilman Wheeler moved that the appointments be referred to the committee on judiciary. "The list," he said, "contains some good names and some that neither capable or honest. I mean what I say and I can prove it." The matter was so referred.

Mr. Chaffee's resolution authorizing and requesting Alvin Saunders to redeed to the city the property donated by the city to the Union Pacific railway company for depot grounds, and forfeited by that company, was referred to the committee on judiciary and the city attorney.

The city clerk was authorized to secure 2,000 dog tags.

The committee on paving, curbing and guttering recommended that the council approve the contracts for paving awarded by the board public words, except the award to J. E. Riley & Co. for cedar block paving on concrete for $1.78½ per yard under the specifications of 1889, and the award to E. E. Naugle & Co. for cedar block paving on sand for $1.45 per yard under the specifications of 1888, and that the bonds all be referred back to the board of public works to see that all bondsmen are resident free-holders worth the amount of the bond, and that they shall not have any contract for any city work. The report was referred to the city attorney to report Tuesday evening.

The council went into a committee of the whole, with Mr. Burnham in the chair, to consider the boiler inspector's ordinance, which was read by sections and a number of amendments offered. The ordinance provides for the appointment by the mayor of a boiler inspector, who shall hold office for two years, and of two members who, with the inspector, shall constitute a board of engineers. All applicants for positions as engineers must be examined by the board of engineers. The manner of testing boilers, by the hydraulic and hammer methods, is provided for, and the fees for the same. A section provides that all boiler owners shall have their boilers inspected at least once a year, and prohibits any steam user from employing other than a licensed engineer to operate any boiler. Any engineer, under the ordinance, forfeits his certificate for using intoxicating liquors while on duty. Owners are made liable to a fine of not less than $10 for using any boiler that has been condemned by the boiler inspection or for using a greater amount of steam on a boiler than is allowed by the boiler inspector's certificate. All boilers using a pressure of ten pounds come under the inspection regulations. Any insurance company doing business in the city of Omaha shall have the power to appoint an assistant inspector, with the concurrence of the board of engineers, to be paid by the company. The ordinance was reported back to Mr. Davis and Mr. Wheeler to be rewritten, embodying the amendments offered, and to report the same at the next meeting of the council.

A batch of grade ordinances were read and referred to the proper committees.

President Lee appointed Councilmen Kaspar, Davis, Lowry, Chaffee and Schriver a committee to investigate the charges made against certain members of the police force.

ORGANIZED LABOR.

An Open Meeting in Which Matters of Interest Were Discussed.

A mass meeting of the different local labor organizations was held last night at Gate City hall, Thirteenth and Douglas streets. It was an open meeting for the purpose of permitting the various members of the Knights of Labor to gather and exchange ideas on the various phases of the labor problem. The meeting was very largely attended. James R. Young, who is identified with local assembly No. 2845, acted as chairman.

Among the first called upon to address the audience was William McGregor, an aged gentleman of the Carpenters' union. He made a strong appeal to the wage worker, irrespective of his trade, politics or religion, to identify himself with some labor organization. In the course of his talk he said: "You get no help from anyone because you are not willing to help yourself. The time has come when you must not throw anything overboard. If you imagine you are going to get anything done for the workingman you must put that kind of a man into office. Capitalists work for capitalists; corporations work for corporations; lawyers work for lawyers. So you see every man works for himself and for what he represents. Accordingly, the workingman must