THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

NINETEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1889. NUMBER 41.

THRESHING OVER OLD STRAW.

Morley's Dreary Harangue to Bored Listeners and Empty Benches.

JOSEPH'S SQUIBS AND CRACKERS

A Certain "Mr. Jesse Collings" Goes Into An Ecstacy of Delight Over His Leader's Funny Sayings.

Death of the Grants Debate.

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LONDON, July 29.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—Everything it would be possible to say with advantage on the royal grant question was said last Thursday and Friday. Why come to see Morley laboriously threshing over old straw? The majority of the members stayed away. Whole rows of benches were empty to-day when Morley began. On the front opposition bench were Chamberlain, Sir Henry James and Sir W. Harcourt, who were afterwards joined by Gladstone and Hartington. On the other side were most of the ministers with a look of more complete boredom than usual on their intellectual countenances. Smith might have sat for a study of an early christian martyr and Balfour for a memorial figure in the stained glass window. Below the gangway on the ministerial side were only four members present. Consul General New sat under the gallery. He vanished after a time. Morley was evidently too much for him. Morley came to set a dead horse on his legs and make him run over the course again. It could not be done. Morley produced his essay and laid it on the box before him. It is very convenient to have that box, for you appear to be only casting a reflective glance at it, when in reality you are searching for a catchword in your notes. But Morley does a good deal more than that. He reads sentences after sentences and page after page and it is certainly not too much to say that yesterday he read fully two-thirds of his speech. It is impossible to make this sort of thing lively for an audience, and Morley's style is little adapted to carry off such a burden with good grace. He has a somewhat feminine manner and seems to be anxious to disguise the weakness of which he is conscious by throwing a tremendous emphasis on unimportant words, or each half word with many jerkings of the head and doublings of the body. Morley had a big weight to lift and he could not lift it, small blame to him, for nobody could have done it.

Confident of success, with a manifest contempt for all who had preceded him, Chamberlain advanced gaily to the desk. He requires very few notes. Moreover, he can answer promptly and his arguments, if not deep, generally have a dapper appearance and are pretty sure to go off with a snap. He had no very difficult task before him in showing up Morley's inconsistencies, which really have been almost too absurd for belief on this question. Why vote against Labouchere's resolution on Friday night and then bring forward one of your own meaning precisely the same thing the following Monday? This question and others like it did Chamberlain press upon his dear friend, "honest John, or finally Jack," as the last playful nickname goes, until he was almost out of breath. When Mr. Chamberlain went into the humorous line and gave extracts from a diary of a perplexed politician very carefully got up but not at all entertaining, the conservatives opposite, good, honest souls, saw that their newly acquired friend, Joseph, seriously intended to be funny and they generously encouraged him with a laugh and a cheer. By this time, if not before, it must have become clear to everybody that the great royal grants debate was really and truly defunct and that the kindest thing to do with it would be to take it aside and bury it.

At the beginning of the debate "a certain Mr. Jesse Collings" was seated comfortably on the front bench, but when Mr. Chamberlain began to speak he moved to the gangway and there took his seat upon the steps close to Storey, the member for Sunderland, no doubt with a view of interfering as a sort of buffer between that member of the stalwart party and Chamberlain. Should Storey go for Joseph, he could only do it over the prostrate form of the faithful Jesse Collings. There he sat on the floor lost in an ecstacy of delight, hanging breathlessly on every word that fell from his revered leader's lips and gazing into his face with simple and pathetic adoration. Presently he saw that the great man was getting ready to let off the squibs and crackers which Joseph always has at hand for the conclusion of a speech, and his spectacles fell from his nose in the excitement of the moment. Bang, fizz, went the fireworks in all directions, but especially among Mr. Chamberlain's old comrades, the radicals. He had evidently come down for the express purpose of having it out with them and repaying some of the shrewd digs they have lately been giving him about flunkyism and a manifest desire to creep into the tory fold.

Chamberlain's attack, like his apologies of the diary, was overdone. He pumped himself up into a fit of great indignation, but you could hear and see the pump at work. The new radicals he denounced as good only for destructive purposes, not good in any way for constructive. They sought to pull down every thing. They wanted to throw the construction into the melting pot.

One rubbed one's eyes and looked around in astonishment. Were not these the very accusations which were brought not long ago against himself? There was once a book published called "Who's Who?" The sergeant-at-arms should buy a few a few copies for the house of commons. Now there is indeed war to the knife publicly proclaimed between Chamberlain and the new radicals.

A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

HIS IMMENSE SACRIFICES.

What the King of the Belgians is Doing For the Congo State.

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BRUSSELS, July 29.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—The Congo railway company will be regularly constituted here Wednesday with a proposed capital of 25,000,000 francs. The Belgian state has subscribed 10,000,000 francs and the founders 5,000,000 francs. A public subscription will soon be opened simultaneously at Brussels, London and Berlin for 10,000,000 francs in 20,000 500-franc ordinary shares. It is believed here that it will be impossible for the king of the Belgians to continue his immense pecuniary sacrifices for the benefit of the Congo state and that the assistance of the Belgian government will soon become necessary to conduct the enterprise to a successful issue.

A Prominent San Franciscan Dies.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 29.—A dispatch from London announces the death there to-day of George S. Ladd, a well known San Franciscan and president of the Pacific Bell Telephone company.

BOULANGER IS WEARY.

How He Receives the Results of the French Elections.

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LONDON, July 29.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—Boulanger was in deep thought, apparently, when a reporter saw him this evening. He had denied himself to everybody during the day, and evidently expected news from his visitor. On his large office desk, methodically arranged, were piles of telegrams from every part of France, telling of the result of the elections in the the cantons. Boulanger looked weary. In his hand he held a volume of statistics. They looked dull reading. His face showed unmistakable signs of disappointment. When he was asked for his opinion of the elections.

"I had expected that you had brought me fresh news. I have no means of forming ideas yet," he said.

He approached the desk and ran his fingers over a pile of telegrams, and said:

"No, I have, as you see, got a large number of dispatches, but they only give me details of how the battle is waging."

He was shown a list which gave the republicans 316, conservatives 160, Boulangists 13, revolutionists 6 and 47 cantons in which a second ballot would be required. The general read it carefully, and his brows knitted over his heavy forehead. Then he looked disdainfully and said:

"Those are only the results from about 500 cantons. There are altogether about 1,550. The government has intentionally given out those adverse to me first, so as to influence public opinion. They strive in that way to harm me. It is an order of the prefect, but they will be compelled to declare the whole lot shortly, and then we shall see. I originally selected eighty districts, but delegates came from thirteen others and said that if I would not stand they would nominate me anyhow, and so I allowed my name to be put down."

The French Elections.

PARIS, July 29.—The latest returns show the following results: Republicans, 764; conservatives, 419; Boulanger, 12. A second ballot will have to be taken in 149 cantons. The Temps says the definite result will not be known until to-morrow. It is certain that the republican majority will only suffer in the department of Ille-Et-Vilaine.

Three Boulangists Arrested.

PARIS, July 29.—Three persons have been arrested for stealing from the senate court the evidence published regarding the case of General Boulanger.

HARRISON'S THANKS TO DUBLIN.

Lord Mayor Sexton Says the Letter Was Tampered With.

DUBLIN, July 29.—President Harrison has sent a letter to Lord Mayor Sexton in reply to the corporation's expression of sympathy for the sufferers by the Johnstown disaster. In it he says:

"I highly appreciate the exceeding kind spirit which prompted your action. Please accept the warmest thanks of the president and the American people for the touching expressions of sympathy and the generous gifts of the citizens of Dublin."

Sexton stated that the official envelope in which the letter was enclosed bore plain traces of having been tampered with. The seal had been melted and the envelope had been fastened with another kind of gum and the American crest on the envelope was defaced.

Harrison to Leave For Washington.

DEER PARK, July 29.—President Harrison has definitely decided to leave Deer Park for Washington Thursday morning.

THE DEITY'S NAME.

A Heated Debate Over Its Insertion in the Washington Preamble.

OLYMPIA, W. T., July 29.—The convention spent the morning in the discussion of the proposition to but the name of the Diety into the preamble of the constitution. The preamble as reported reads: "We, the people of the state of Washington, to preserve our rights do ordain this constitution." Turner wanted inserted: "Profoundly grateful to Almighty God and invoking his favor and and guidance," etc. It was opposed by several speakers as being unnecessary. Each of them professed the greatest reverence for God, but some feared it might be construed to mean a union of church and state. Sullivan, of Whitman, caused a sensation by declaring that although a good church member himself, he believed it all buncombe, insincere and done for political effect. The debate was very heated and the preamble was finally referred back to the committee to report a new one. The remainder of the article passed with little discussion.

Woman Suffrage Dead.

BISMARCK, July 29.—A quorum was not present at roll call this afternoon, and the convention adjourned without transacting any business. Prohibition is making no headway, woman suffrage is dead, and railroad taxation is the one question which will probably cause animated debate.

At Boise City.

BOISE CITY, Idaho, July 29.—The convention dodged the temperance question by adopting a section saying the first concern of all good government is the virtue of the people and the purity of homes, and the legislature should further all wise and well directed efforts for the promotion of temperance and morality; established commissioners of immigration and labor statistics; made eight hours a day on public works, and shut off convict labor outside prison grounds. Italians must not be employed on state and municipal or public works.

The Day at Helena.

HELENA, July 29.—Strenuous efforts were made in the convention to-day to bring the capital question up again, but it failed. The remainder of the day was devoted to the consideration of the bill of the executive department in committee of the whole, several articles being adopted.

Met and Adjourned.

SIOUX FALLS, July 29.—The constitutional convention met and adjourned to-day, dispensing with the services of the chaplain and clerk. Only sub delegates were present.

A Prospective English Purchase.

CHICAGO, July 29.—A special from Streator, Ill., says that William L. Scott, the Pennsylvania millionaire coal baron, who owns nearly all the stock of the Spring Valley Coal Mining company, is said to be figuring with an English syndicate for the sale of the entire Spring Valley (Ill.) mine including all the machinery and 40,000 acres of land. The price at which the plant is offered is said to be $4,000,000.

Caused By the Lewis Failure.

PHILADELPHIA, July 29.—G. P. Dennis, proprietor of the Yeadon mills at Chester and the Todnorton mills, Bancroft's Bank, has decided to close these industries in consequence of the failure of Lewis Bros. & Co. The general presumption is the suspension will be brief. The worsted mills of Scheppers Bros. closed Saturday in consequence of the failure.

A Warning to Collectors.

HOLYOKE, Colo., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A Mr. Bruin struck Attorney Keisy about the head, inflicting serious but not fatal injuries. Bruin is under arrest. The assault arose in the collection of an account against Bruin.

A JOURNALIST'S HARD LUCK.

The Hastings Gazette-Journal Plant and Building Burned.

STATEMENT OF THE INSURANCE.

Fairmont's Third Incendiary Blaze—Pender's Suspected Murderers—Nebraska City's Quick Thieves Niobrara's Tax Title Row.

Hasting's Fire.

HASTINGS, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The Gazette-Journal printing, binding and manufacturing establishment was burned this morning, and is almost a total loss. The establishment was the largest of its kind in the state outside of Omaha and Lincoln, and did a large business. The origin of the fire is shrounded in mystery. It was discovered by the engineer who went to build the fire in the engine room at about 5 o'clock this morning. Before entering the basement he found it filled with smoke and immediately turned in the alarm. The fire department responded promptly, but owing to the location of the fire and the arrangement of the interior of the building, were unable to extinguish the flames until the building was entirely gutted.

The Gazette-Journal establishment was owned by S. P. Rounds, jr. It occupied a large three-story brick building, 66 by 100 feet. The press, job and bindery departments were supplied with the best of machinery and material.

The Gazette Journal company was first formed in 1883 and incorporated under the laws of the state. It was reorganized in 1885 and the capital stock increased to $100,000. In November, 1888, the company went into the hands of a receiver who sold it in January of the present year to the Nebraska Loan and Trust company, the principal mortgagee. The plant was then bought by Messrs. Wigton & Evans, who carried on the business until last June when they disposed of it to Mr. Rounds. The latter named gentleman had put the establishment in shape, added largely to its facilities for doing work and was working up a large trade when to-day's disaster overtook him. He has already leased another building and will put in a new plant as soon as the insurance on the burned plant can be settled.

The building also contained a retail boot and shoe store and a general dry goods store. Both stocks are a total loss. The insurance is as follows: On the building, which is owned by the Nebraska Loan and Trust company, $9,000; on the paper and stock, $5,000; on machinery and plaut, $10,500; on the shoe store owned by Vail & Green, $2,000; on general merchandise owned by F. D. Hollingsworth, $3,000.

The loss on the building will be $10,000. The total loss on the Gazette-Journal establishment cannot be estimated at the present writing, but the insurance will not cover it.

An Injustice to Smith.

SPRINGFIELD, Neb., July 29.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The dispatch printed in THE BEE Saturday from this place in regard to J. W. Smith has done that gentleman a great injustice. There was no such an attempt made by Mr. Smith, and he did not leave Springfield on account of any such proceedings as stated. The facts are that the young lady in the case is the one to blame in the matter if blame there is. She had been in the habit for some time of staying a great deal around the depot in spite of often being told by Mr. Smith that he did not wish her there, and that her repeated presence at the depot was attracting attention and much talk. There were many citizens of Springfield who were and are now perfectly willing to testify to the facts as here given, that Mr. Smith had often used every means to induce her to keep away from the depot, but to no avail. It can also be proved that she told her own brother that she would visit the depot as often as she liked and that it was no one's business. Mr. Smith never showed any spirit except that of a friend towards the lady and there was never anything further than above stated to cause trouble. Mr. Smith is a young man of good character and has hundreds of friends in Springfield and vicinity who would like to see the matter explained in your columns properly.

New Lodge of Masons.

BENKELMAN, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Grand Master Mason J. D. Mercer and L. P. Gillette, grand custodian, instituted Justice Lodge No. 180 at this place this evening. The following officers were installed: J. W. Tompson, W. M.; J. R King, S. W.; H. R. Edwards, J. W.; L. Morse, treasurer, and F. W. Dawson, secretary. The installation was public, and the grandest banquet Benkelman has ever had followed. About one hundred and twenty-five masons and invited guests partook of a most bountiful repast. The Masons have a strong lodge composed of many of Dundy county's best men.

The Suspected Indians.

PENDER, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The four Indians suspected of the murder at this place last Saturday were safely lodged in jail here at 2:30 this afternoon and will have their preliminary hearing Thursday. While the excitement over the case has materially subsided, there is considerable quiet talk about town tonight. An Indian came in to-night and made numerous inquiries regarding the names of the prisoners, which created some suspicion that the reds might attempt to release them, but a careful watch will be kept for them.

Going Into Camp.

WYMORE, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Camp Harrison was opened to-day and visitors are beginning to arrive and the camp presents a very lively aspect. A large gathering is confidently expected and preparations have been made to accommodate 15,000 people. The different committees have worked harmoniously and the result is one of the finest and prettiest parks in the west. A grand military ball in honor of General Thayer and staff will be given on August 2.

A Drummer's Escape.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Geo Imel, a traveling man from St. Joe, Mo., narrowly escaped a horrible death to-night at Pacific Junction, Ia. He attempted to board a passenger train that had started from the station, and lost his footing and fell across the track beneath the cars. He made a desperate attempt to roll out of the way, but his left foot was caught beneath the wheels and badly crushed.

Too Quick For the Chief.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., July 29.—[Special to THE BEE.]—A. F. Riddle and Lewis House, two men suspected of having burglarized several stores in the city several nights ago, were run down by Chief Abbey yesterday on the river near Aspinwall. The thieves threw their booty overboard when the chief approached, thus destroying all evidence against them. The officer returned home without them.

Wrangling Over Tax Titles.

NIOBRARA, Neb., July 29.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Senator Robinson, of Hartington, has been in town two days looking into the status of a large tract of land in this county sold to John R. Markley and R. E. W. Spargus for taxes at a discount of fifty per cent. He will probably commence suit against the county, the land being now valuable and the title clouded.

An Old Citizen Stricken.

COLUMBUS, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Charles Wake, aged sixty years, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Columbus, was stricken with paralysis while on his way home this evening. Medical aid was summoned, and at this hour he is resting quietly and hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Periodic Incendiarism.

FAIRMONT, Neb., July 29.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Fairmont had another incendiary fire this morning at 5 o'clock. The fire was started in a vacant dwelling house owned by Mrs. Burdick, a widow. The fire department extinguished the flames before much damage had been done. This makes Fairmont's third incendiary fire within a year and a half.

Kicking Pedagogues.

KEARNEY, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The annual session of the Buffalo county normal institute began here this morning, and will be in session four weeks. The matter of low wages paid teachers in rural districts was discussed and the idea of pooling interests in the teachers profession prevails.

It Sobered Him Up.

GRANT, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A. S. Olds, traveling salesman for Mostler Bahmann & Co., safes, of Cincinnati, got on a hilarious drunk at Grant Saturday. He wanted to sober up Sunday and took an overdose of morphine, and had not prompt assistance been rendered would have died.

He Liked the Motor.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., July 29.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The Nebraska City street railway company is making preparations for putting in an electric motor. President Zartling has been to Omaha to investigate the motor's workings and returned perfectly satisfied.

Knox County Teachers' Institute.

NIOBRARA, Neb., July 29.—[Special to THE BEE.]—County Superintendent Clare has just returned from the teachers' institute, which closed at Creighton Saturday. He says it was the best institute ever held in Knox county, the average attendance being sixty.

Forced to Drop His Plunder.

BEATRICE, Neb., July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Night Clerk Lewis of the Grand Central hotel discovered a hotel thief operating at 1 o'clock this morning. Lewis opened fire and made the fellow drop his plunder on the street.

A Brawling Editor.

KEARNEY, Neb., July 2.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Editor Carson, of the Gibbon Beacon, became engaged in a brawl here this evening and exposed a gun. He was placed under police protection and fined $25 for the offense.

Their Big Fair.

FAIRMONT, Neb., July 29.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The management of the Fairmont district fair is making arrangements for the largest exhibition known in the history of the association. The date has been set for August 27, 28, 29 and 30.

BURNING TIMBER.

The Mountains in the Vicinity of Gunnison, Col., Ablaze.

DENVER, July 29.—All yesterday and today a heavy, smoky atmosphere hung over Denver, giving the sun the appearance of a red ball of fire. Information received from all points in the state, Wyoming, northern New Mexico and western Kansas and Nebraska indicate that the same condition exists in those localities.

A telegram from Gunnison, Col., says: For two or three days the mountains of this vicinity are ablaze with burning timber. A fire was discovered Friday afternoon last at the head of Lost Gulch. To the north of the gulch the fire was seen raging along the tops of the well-timbered mountain. The air was dense with black smoke, and on the following morning the sun looked ruby in the dark sky. The fire is supposed to have been started by sparks from a passing locomotive.

Fires in Idaho.

BOISE CITY, Idaho, July 29.—Forest fires are sweeping the country about Banner, Idaho, destroying one of the finest belts of timber in Idaho. The country is so dry the fires are liable to spread over a great extent. Governer Shoup has telegraphed the secretary of the interior, asking aid in extinguishing the fires.

Fires Raging Near Santa Barbara.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., July 29.—Fires have been raging in the foothills back of Santa Barbara. Twelve dwelling houses, a number of barns and a large quantity of hay were destroyed. A number of horses and cattle also perished. The loss will reach $50,000.

California Forest Fires.

CHICO, Cal., July 29.—Large forest fires are raging on the Humboldt road, eighteen miles from here. The fire has burned over a district four miles in length and is sweeping everything before it. Much valuable timber has been destroyed. People are fighting the fire and expect to get it under control to-day.

A Big Fire at Wichita.

WICHITA, Kan., July 28.—A fire to-day in the three-story brick building occupied by the T. Cannon Fruit Commission company spread to the adjoining four-story brick building occupied by the Wichita Wholesale Grocery company; loss, $170,000; insurance, $75,000.

A GHASTLY DISCOVERY.

The Charred Bodies of a Half-Breed Family Found on Sun River.

ST. PAUL, July 29.—A Pioneer Press special from Helena, Mont., says: News has reached Helena of a ghastly discovery made last week on Sun river. From the meagre particulars at hand, it seems that a few months ago a family of Flat Head Indians left their reservation, crossed the mountains and went into the Sun River country to hunt. Last week one of their relative, a half breed, found one of their ponies with a white man who claimed he had purchased the animal at Sun River. The half breed began a search for his relatives. After hunting two or three days he found a camp which had been burned and the charred remains of his relatives, a family of three or four. There is no doubt that they were robbed and murdered. The half breed at once notified the authorities, who are looking for the perpetrators of the fiendish act.

A Well Known Kentuckian Dying.

LOUISVILLE, July 29.—James F. Buckner, collector of internal revenue at this point for two terms under President Grant and one term under Hayes, is dying from a paralytic stroke sustained last night. He was speaker of the Kentucky legislature forty years ago, a member of the state senate and the holder of other prominent official positions. He is seventy years of age and quite wealthy.

Three Months for Back Talk.

DUBLIN, July 29.—Dr. Tanner, member of parliament, was sentenced to-day at Tipperary to a month's imprisonment for assaulting a police inspector in May last. When judgment was pronounced he cried out: "I defy you: the magistracy are the real criminals." For this outbreak three months was added to his sentence.

Saloonkeepers Give Bail.

CINCINNATI, July 29.—The cases of the saloonkeepers arrested for violating the Owen law yesterday, were called in police court to-day and bonds were given for appearance for trial. Most of the cases were not set for trial for any special day.

WESTERN UNION'S PROTEST.

Wanamaker's One Mill Rate Pronounced Unreasonable.

HAS OVERSTEPPED THE BOUNDS.

His Power to Make an Unremunerative Tariff Denied—An Increased Telegraph Toll Demanded Instead of the Reduction.

Monopoly's Plaint.

NEW YORK, July 29.—The following is the substance of the protest of the Western Union Telegraph company against the postmaster general's great cut of the rates to be paid for telegraph service in the transmission and delivery of government messages, giving the history and objects of the act of 1866, and the actions heretofore taken under it. The rate in force for the past five years has not been a uniform rate of 1 cent per word, as many papers have assumed, but increasing on a scale of distances above 1,000 miles, with a minimum of 20 cents per message and a maximum of 2½ cents per word. The telegraph companies hold, and are legally advised that the language of the act does not give the postmaster general absolute power to fix any rate he may deem fit. That power is qualified by constitutional restrictions. In article 5 is the language, "nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." The power depends therefore on the question, is 1 mill per word a just compensation?

Hon. John Wanamaker, Postmaster General—Dear Sir: Title 65, revised statutes, embracing the acts of July 24, 1866, and of June 10, 1872, was the outgrowth of the first efforts to induce congress to establish a government telegraph. A scheme was pressed before a committee of congress to incorporate a new telegraph company by the general government, with which the government should contract to transmit telegrams at a price to be agreed upon, the government receiving and delivering the messages, and being the only party known to the patrons of the telegraph. This scheme was justified on the ground that the government had no right to take existing telegraph properties except at prices and on terms acceptable to the companies that owned them; and the scheme was objected to by the telegraph companies then existing, on the ground that the government entering upon the telegraph business at a rate that would not pay expenses, would simply destroy existing telegraph properties. It resulted in a compromise between the telegraph companies and the committee of congress, of which I believe the lamented Garfield was chairman, giving to the telegraph companies certain franchises and privileges, and to the government certain advantages and privileges, including the prior right to telegraph services at the rates to be annually fixed by the postmaster general, and what were deemed at the time of most importance to the government, the right to take the existing telegraph properties of the companies who accepted the provisions of the act, at an appraised value to be ascertained by arbitrators as described in section 5267. This compromise agreement was enacted into law subject to the formal acceptance by the telegraph companies, and their acceptance filed with the government rendered it to all intents and purposes a compact between the government and telegraph companies, the operation of which was intended to be that the government should have the right to take all telegraph properties, and that if it should elect to establish a government telegraph it should take the existing telegraph properties on terms to be ascertained as the law directs. This section 5267, revised statutes of 1878, annotated as being enacted June 10, 1872, giving the government the right to take telegraph properties is, in substance, the same language as the proviso at the close of section 3 of the original act of July 24, 1866, and therefore a part of the compact accepted by the Western Union Telegraph company in June of 1867.

The fixing of rates by the postmaster general does not appear to have been considered an imperative duty on the postmaster general, for no action seems to have been taken by that officer in the direction of fixing rates till July 1, of 1871, when the necessity for it was alleged to have arisen by reason of the complicated character of the service in transmitting the original weather report. A conference with the telegraph companies was involved by Postmaster General Croswell through Captain Howgate, the acting head of the signal service, and a decision of the subject was had in Washington, President William Orton representing the Western Union Telegraph company, and the postmaster general having the assistance of Assistant Attorney General Whaling and the head of the signal bureau; and the rates were fixed satisfactorily to the telegraph companies. They were not annually revised until some years later, and in almost every instance the telegraph companies were consulted as to what they could afford to do the service for. In two instances Postmaster General Jewell and Postmaster James, at the instance of the telegraph companies, recalled and modified their orders after they had been officially proclaimed. The language of the act, that messages between the several departments of the government "shall have priority over all other business at such rates as the postmaster general shall annually fix," may be construed as contemplating the fixing of a higher rate than is paid by other patrons because of such priority in transmission over all other business. Certainly it never contemplated conferring the power to fix the rates below the actual cost of the service. Such action is nothing short of confiscation, an ex-propriation of the property and service of employes to the use of the government without just compensation therefor.

THE RATE AS LAST FIXED.

Twenty-five cents for twenty words or less for distances of 1,000 miles or less, and 1 cent for each additional word and 1-10 of a cent per word for each additional 100 miles or fraction thereof, is for distances of about 1,000 miles (as between Washington and New York and St. Louis, or Chicago), scarcely one-half the rate paid by the public on current messages. For distances of 300 miles and under it is about three-fourths the commercial rate. Our gross receipts for the last fiscal year, as shown by the annual report were $19,711,164.12, and the current working expenses were $14,640,592.18, leaving the profits $5,070,571.94, out of which $536,258.30 was paid for interest and the sinking fund on the bonded debt, which is part of our capitalization. It will be readily seen that the working expenses, without any return for any part of the capital, costs within a fraction of 75 per cent of the total earnings. If, therefore, the government rate averages less than 75 per cent of the rate to the public (as it undoubtedly does), then the government business is now done at a loss.

The annual report shows the average cost to the company of handling messages to be 2.3 cents per message.

If the government business does not pay something more than this average then it must be done at a loss, for the messages, in order to yield such an average, must be considerably above the average length of business messages (about seventeen words) and it is a very exacting service, having precedence over all other business and requiring prompt and often long distance messenger deliveries, or rewriting in some cases to deliver by special wires. These exhibits demonstrate that the rate as fixed for the past year is a great injustice to the telegraph companies and not on a fair business basis of living profits awarded to railroad companies and other corporations for services rendered. The rate ought, therefore, to be increased rather than diminished. By the present rate the government is saving a large sum, probably $100,000 annually by the reduced cost of its telegraph service below what other patrons have to pay, and that saving is necessarily made from other customers. In all justice and fair dealing the rate should therefore be increased. To do the government's work for nothing necessarily imposes heavy burdens on the people who sustain the telegraph. If the railroads hauled the mails for nothing they would have to collect more for other services to sustain the expenses of operation and pay a moderate return for the capital employed. The government is able to pay, and every business consideration demands that it shall pay a fair and reasonable consideration for whatever services it may require.

As instructed by the executive committee of the board of directors, I most respectfully make this the protest of the the Western Union Telegraph company and of the subordinate telegraph companies which it controls against any further reduction below the rates in operation during the last few years as a wrong and injustice to the company, to its 3,600 stockholders and to its 1,000,000 of other customers. I have the honor to remain, most respectfully yours,

NORVIN GREEN, President.

WELDED INTO ONE.

Six Roads Consolidated Into the "Wabash Railroad Company."

CHICAGO, July 29.—A special from Springfield, Ill., says articles of consolidation were filed with the secretary of state to-day combining the Toledo Western Railroad company, the Detroit and State line, the Wabash Railroad company, the Wabash Eastern Railroad company, of Indiana, the Wabash Eastern Railroad company, of Illinois, and the Wabash Western Railroad company, under the general management of "The Wabash Railroad company." The capital stock is $52,000,000. The first board of directors is constituted as follows: James F. Joy, of Detroit, Mich.; Ossian D. Ashley, of New York; Thomas H. Hubbard, of New York; Edgar T, Wells, of Hartford, Conn.; George W. Smith, of Chicago; Abram M. Pence, of Chicago; Charles Henrotin, of Chicago; John W. Buun, of Springfield, and John Maynard Harlen, of Chicago.

The Union Pacific's Demand.

CHICAGO, July 29.—It is understood that one of the matters laid before the executive committee of the Transcontinental association to-day was a demand by the Union Pacific that it be permitted to share Puget Sound business with the Northern Pacific. This claim was made by the Union Pacific some time ago, but it was decided against it. Now, it is said, it threatens to withdraw from the association unless allowed part of this traffic.

The controversy over the Puget Sound business was afterwards referred to the eastern officials of the Northern and Union Pacific roads, who will meet in New York this week to see if an amicable adjustment can be reached. The remainder of the day was occupied in the discussion of the Southern Pacific and Canadian Pacific dispute. Early in the discussion General Manager Stubbs of the Southern Pacific left the meeting in disgust and refused to return during the day.

A FURIOUS RAIN STORM.

Worcester County, Maryland, Mourns for Its Crops.

SNOWHILL, Md., July 29.—A rain storm surpassing all previous ones that have fallen this year in Worcester county began here early Thursday morning last and continued through Friday. All railroad communication has been cut off in consequence of the numerous washouts, and it will be probably several days before trains can run again. Purnell's mill, near here, was completely swept away, together with the bridge and part of the dam. With this storm is swept away the last remnant of hope for growing crops in Worcester county. A few farmers most favorably situated will perhaps raise half an average crop of corn, while others will raise none.

The Arkansas on a Tear.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 29.—Specials tonight give damages wrought by the destructive wind and rain storms which swept over this section last night. At Clarksville the streets were flooded and the town was in danger of being swept away by Spadra creek, which was out of its banks. Many people took to the hills. All the creeks were out of their banks and overflowing the bottoms adjacent, ruining crops, and it is very naturally supposed that the Arkansas river will overflow its banks and ruin the fine cotton crops in the bottom lands. The river had risen fourteen feet in nine hours up to 6 p. m., and was still rising.

Twenty Miles of Track Flooded.

SALISBURY, Md., July 29.—Yesterday, between Laurel and Seaford, a cloud burst occurred, flooding the country. The corn fields and strawberry fields are under water, and the railroad tracks between Seaford and Delaware for twenty miles are flooded. From yesterday morning 11¾ inches of rain have fallen.

A Terrific Thunder Storm.

KANSAS CITY, July 29.—A special from Springfield, Mo., says a terrific thunder storm accompanied with hailstorms occurred in that vicinity early this morning. The fruit crop was badly damaged. Corn suffered somewhat.

A Regular Cyclone.

BOSTON, July 29.—A cyclone storm of wind and rain this afternoon uprooted orchrrds, plowed a furrow fifteen feet wide for a long distance and threw water out of Chicopee river fifty feet high. The streams are rising rapidly.

Tobacco Crops Ruined.

MILWAUKEE, July 29.—Specials from points in Rock and Jefferson counties say that the tobacco crops in those sections were completely ruined by a hail storm Saturday afternoon. The plants were ready to be topped and the loss is irreparable. Other crops are not much damaged.

A Mad Dog Runs Amuck.

HOBOKEN, N. J., July 29.—A mongrel black ran into the stable of the street car company this morning and bit Frederick Bruhn, a hostler, on the hand and arm; he then ran to the corner of Washington and First streets where he bit Nicholas Crozetti, aged twelve years, on the arm, and the dog belonging to Crozetti. The supposed rabid brute then ran to the Hamburg steamboat dock, dashed into the office of the custom house officers, bit Charles Basso, check clerk, on the right forearm and ran down the dock and bit Peter Joppa, fireman on the steamer Gellert, on the left forearm. The dog was killed on the dock by a policeman and a stevedore.

The Offense Indictable.

MUSCOGEE, I. T., July 29.—When the Creek nation desired to negotiate for the sale of the Oklahoma country Messrs. Pies, Porter and B. M. Hodges were chosen delegates to represent the nations. They drew 10 per cent of the purchase money, and claimed that they had paid that as per agreement to ex-Governor Crawford for attorney's fees. The 10 per cent drawn amounts to $228,000. On the other hand it is claimed that Secretary Vilas cancelled the contract with ex-Governor Crawford. To receive Indian money without the sanction of the department is an indictable offense. The matter was brought to the notice of the authorities at Washington and General Gardiner is now here investigating the matter.

Supposed to Be Drowned.

PEORIA, Ills., July 29.—Last night at eight o'clock Frank Kowaltz and Hannah Shearer went boating. This morning the boat was found upside down. Kowaltz's hat and coat were in it, and as neither of the parties can be found, they are supposed to have been drowned. The river is being dredged.

Weather Indications.

For Omaha and vicinity—Fair weather.

For Dakota and Nebraska: Fair, warmer, northerly winds, becoming variable.

For Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois—Fair, warmer, northerly winds.

ARMY CIRCLES INTERESTED.

The Fort Omaha Case an Absorbing Topic

AMONG WASHINGTON OFFICERS.

Nebraska's Internal Revenue Collections—The Geodetic Survey—A Supposed Defaulter—New Postmasters Appointed.

WASHINGTON BUREAU, THE OMAHA BEE,
513 FOURTEENTH STREET,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 29.

The court-martial case now in progress at Fort Omaha is attracting a great deal of attention in army circles here. All the news that can be gleaned in relation to it from the papers is eagerly scanned, and army officers frequently come to THE BEE office to ascertain whether any additional information has been received at this end of the wire. Every copy of THE BEE received here is read by at least a dozen officers anxious for the details of the court-martial.

A SUPPOSED DEFAULTER.

The Associated press dispatches this morning from Kansas City stated that Charles S. Crysler, a prominent lawyer of Independence, is a defaulter in the sum of $50,000 and that he has been missing from his home for some days. Crysler has been in Washington since last week and was stopping at the Ebbitt house until this morning. Those who know he was here attempted to see him as soon as the paragraph appeared in the papers, but it was discovered that he had left early in the day and no one about Washington has any idea as to what direction he took. It is about a twenty hours' ride by the most direct route from Washington to the nearest point on the Canadian border.

INTERNAL REVENUE REPORT.

The annual report of the commissioner of internal revenue for the fiscal rear just closed was issued to-day. It shows the following receipts in the states of Iowa and Nebraska from all sources: Collector Byron Webster, of the Third Iowa district collected $149,082, and August H. Kuehlmeser, of the Fourth Iowa district, reported $243,404. During the year two men have served as collector of the Nebraska district. During his term Simeon H. Calhoun gathered in $2,214,792, while John Peters' reports show that his collections were $33,832.

THE GEODETIC SURVEY.

Prof. S. C. Mendenhall, of Indiana, who was recently appointed chief of the coast geodetic survey, has arrived and took charge of his office to-day. Prof. Mendenhall does not intend to make auy immediate changes in the force under him, and will probably retain all, or nearly all of his subordinates. The force in the court survey is an excellent one, and the work performed is so scientifically accurate that when two lines were brought together, one from the coast of Maine on the north and the other from Charleston on the south, there was less than half an inch in variation.

HAS HIS CHOICE.

Mr. A. B. Ball, of Tecumseh, who was recently appointed timber agent of the general land office has been in Washington a day or two for instructions. Mr. Ball has his choice of three locations. He can go to the Black Hills in the northern portion of South Dakota, to Arizona or to Washington territory. He has not yet fully determined which of the assignments he will accept, but at the present time is inclined towards Seattle, and will probably make up his mind to go there.

THE PENSION OFFICE INVESTIGATION.

The investigation into the methods prevailing in the pension office is progressing rapidly. It promises to be more searching than it was expected at first, and the chances are that it will extend back to the period where the last investigation left off. Commissioner Tanner has supplied the committee with every facility for carrying on the inquiry, and among the data furnished is a batch of papers upon which cases were made "special." These papers extend over a period of several years, and among them is a pile occupying a space of about four cubic feet. It is reported that this pile accumulated during the administration, and that nearly all of them were cases in which Civil Service Commissioner John H. Oberly set forth excellent reasons why some fifteen hundred cases should be taken out of their regular order before the democratic national convention met in St. Louis last summer. There is no question that Commissioner Black made hundreds of cases special during the last months of his administration, and, it may be proven, that in matters of this kind Civil Service Commissioner Oberly was the most powerful man in the country with the pension office.

IOWA POSTMASTERS APPOINTED.

Canna, Scott county, Joe Henderson; Moingona, Boone county, Mrs. J. B. Gubert; Wheatland, Chuton county, Jerome Dutton.

NEW NEBRASKA POSTMASTERS.

Elwood, Gosper county, M. B. Reid; Unadilla, Olive county, Henry Huckins; Oxford, Furnas county, J. M. Lee.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The secretary of war to-day published the retirement of Major Alexander Sharpe, paymaster. The retirement of Major Sharpe reduces the pay corps to forty, five more than the maximum fixed by a recent act of congress.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

Preliminary Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30.

WASHINGTON, July 29.—Commissioner of Internal Revenue Mason made the following preliminary report of the operations of the internal revenue service for the fiscal year ended June 30, last: The total collections for the fiscal year just ended were $130,095,432, an increase over 1888 of $6,568,957. The cost of collection for the fiscal year just ended will aggregate about $4,185,000, being a fraction less than 3.2 per cent, which is exactly the same as in 1888. The total receipts from the different objects of taxation were: From spirits, $74,313,206, an increase of $5,007,039 over the previous fiscal year; from tobacco, $31,867,860, an increase of $1,204,429; from fermented liquors, $23,723,835, an increase of $399,617; from oleomargarine, $894,248, an increase of $30,108; from banks, $6,214, an increase of $2,011, and from miscellaneous, $91,069, a decrease of $75,248. Taxes were paid on 3,844,726,650 cigars, 1,862,726,000 cigarettes and 32,667,785 pounds of oleomargarine. Among the contributions by states were these: Illinois, $31,007,419; Indiana, $5,788,236; Iowa, $392,576; Kentucky, $16,910,814; Missouri, $7,730,608; Nebraska, $2,248,624; Ohio, $11,556,726; Wisconsin, $3,096,495. The report also contains a statement of the collections by districts, which shows the collections to be heaviest in the districts named as follows:

Fifth Illinois, $19,322,265; First Illinois, $9,134,386; Fifth Kentucky, $8,866,882; First Ohio, $8,602,251; First Missouri, $6,449,977.

Nebraska and Iowa Pensions.

WASHINGTON, July 29.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Pensions granted to Nebraskans: Original invalid—Theodore F. Barnes. Increase—John E. Curtis, George V. Wells.

Iowans: Original invalid—John A. McClure, Philip H. McCartney, Asa Brown, Daniel W. Lutmans. Increase—William I. McLean, Peter Kline, Samuel Morrison, Samuel Moffatt, Smith M. Wax, Clinton Dewitt, Andrew J. Barr. Reissue—Joseph Baule, Seldon H. Stacy. Original, widows, etc.—Lucretia M., widow of Josiah W. McCadden.

What Ails the Texas?

WASHINGTON, July 29.—Reports from Norfolk respecting the construction of the Texas at the navy yard there have occasioned some disturbance in the equanimity of the officials about the navy department. In the absence of Secretary Tracy nothing definite can be learned.