THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

NINETEENTH YEAR. OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 1889. NUMBER 63.

ROSS RAYMOND RECOGNIZED.

The Slick American Again at His Old Tricks.

SHOWING HIS FINE ITALIAN HAND.

He Proceeds to Exhibit It in the Construction of Forged Checks and Drafts—Under Arrest at Blackpool.

Raymond Bobs Up Serenely.

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LONDON, August 20.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—About four weeks ago Morris Wise, who represented the United States treasury department at the Paris industrial congress, was standing in the main corridor of the Hotel Metropole, when a hand was laid lightly on his shoulder. He turned around and found Ross Raymond smiling at him. Mr. Wise's greeting not being warm, Raymond disappeared, after stating that he had just come from Paris. To-day the following dispatch was received from Blackpool by the London police:

"Rolfe, the man arrested here for swindling, is thirty-eight years old, 5 feet ¾ inche, with sallow complexion, dull grey eyes, heavy eyelids, dropping chin, brown hair, full forehead, stout figure, gentlemanly appearance and address and clean-shaved, with medium mustache. He has an anchor, shield and two flags on his right forearm, medium voice, is well educated, polished in style, well versed in military affairs in Egypt, also press and naval matters. He has very pleasing and attactive manners, is quiet and never at a loss for ideas. While in Blackpool he had dozens of people running after him, taking him driving, feasting and honoring him. He speaks rather sharply and has an extensive vocabulary."

This is the genuine goods and no mistake. Raymond bore the name of Ernest Neville Rolfe when he was committed at the Manchester assizes for obtaining £21 on a foreign bill of exchange. He represented himself in Blackpool as Bennett Burleigh, a war correspondent, and said he was going to report the doings of the Channel squadron at Fleetwood. Upon the strength of this story he induced John Harding, director of the Blackpool winter garden, to accept a bill of exchange which purported to be signed by George Augustus Sala. That veteran journalist, however, repudiated the signature, and it was further proved that the initials on the checks were not in Bennett Burleigh's hand writing, who was on the cruiser Howe. While Rolfe has been in jail under remand Superintendent Deerham has been busy inquiring into his career and has gathered material for a three volume novel. Rolfe is the same gentleman who, in December last, presented himself at Highbury, Birmingham, under the name of Ritchie, bearing a letter of introduction from Erastus Wiman, whose acquaintance Joseph Chamberlain made while acting as special commissioner in the United States. Austin Chamberlain conducted the ingenious Ritchie round the celebrated orchid houses and then lent him money with which to meet his hotel bills. The next morning Ritchie discharged this little obligation by getting Mr. Chamberlain to introduce him at a bank. Chamberlain introduced him to a local house, upon whom Ritchie palmed a fraudulent bill for £50 drawn on Drexel, Morgan & Co. Ritchie found it convenient to leave Birmingham in a hurry and to hie himself to Saunder & Co., orchid collectors at St. Albans. To Saunders he represented himself as Austin Chamberlain, and knowing the penchant of that gentleman's father for orchids, he saw nothing suspicious in the order for a supply of that fashionable flower, nor in the American bill which paid for it. Mr. Saunders gladly handed the fictitious Austin the change. Rolfe's next public appearance was in the character of Major Rhodes, of the Royal dragoons. Under that name and title he presented himself to Nathaniel Morton, of Belfast, and bought five horses from him for £470, tendering a military draft for £525 and receiving the change, £45. The draft was returned marked "no account." Under the pretense that he was Captain Resford, master of Lord Dorchester's yacht Aphrodite, he obtained £300, and as Eric Harting he beat a boat builder to the tune of £200. As Captain Rathburn, master of Lord Brassey's steam yacht Sunbeam, he presented a check on the Capitol and Counties bank at Hastings and got a bank at Greenock to advance him £30, as he said he wanted to pay the men off. Among other performances he induced Mr. Morgan, of the Aberystwith Observer, to loan him £7 on a forged check. He has also been heard from at the Isle of Man, and Boston, Lincolnshire. At the latter place he went to Swinehead abbey, the residence of Mr. Ingraham, of the Illustrated London News. He told the lady of the house that he was Melton Prior and was hard up. When Mr. Ingraham returned and heard this tale he and some police officers made a tour of the local hotels and found the pseudo Melton Prior in the act of obtaining cash for a fictitious draft at sight for £21, drawn in favor of Ernest Neville Rolffe, R. N. C B., on Sir Gerald Fitzgerald, of Spring Gardens, London.

THE TEXAS RACE WAR.

Matters Amicably Adjusted Between the Woodpeckers and Jaybirds.

RICHMOND, Tex., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Governor Ross and Assistant Attorney General Harrison left here to-night for Austin. They regard the trouble as now settled by the course of the "Woodpeckers," in whose ranks were the county officers, in yielding their choice for sheriff and accepting as second choice that of the "Jaybirds." Sergeant Ira Aten, of the rangers. In a caucus to-night that lasted five hours, they finally came to this agreement, and this forenoon when the commissioners met, he was appointed. His bond was made by the "Jaybirds," and is good for a $1,000,000, although $40,000 is the required amount. The "Jaybirds" could make the bond but not the appointment, and the "Woodpeckers" the appointment but not the bond. The new sheriff has taken charge of the Gibson boys and will hold them till the preliminary trial, fixed to take place next Monday. They are charged with assault with intent to kill, being in the fight with Parker and Wadem Robinson on Friday. Sheriff Aten has selected two deputies, one from Williamson county and the other from Burnett. The people now have confidence in the administration being able to keep the peace and order. The county judge will resign his position in a few days and leave the county. Other prominent "Woodpeckers" will do the same and claim that they do it for the safety of their lives. One of the commissioners will resign to-morrow and break a quorum. All the wounded men are doing well and two will leave here as soon as they are able. The light guards left and the rangers took possession of the courthouse.

BURKE'S SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

Agnew, of St. Paul, Supposed to Be the Disburser of the Cash.

CHICAGO, August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The states attorney said today that, so far as he was concerned, the trial of the Cronin murderers would begin next Monday. Whether the defense would pursue dilatory tactics he had no means of knowing or guessing. If they should attempt to delay trial he didn't know whether it would be by a motion for a severance or simply by a motion for a continuance. If they should ask for a continuance he had no idea on what grounds it would be.

An item of no little interest in the Cronin case is the presence of Frank Agnew in the city. Mr. Agnew's residence is in St. Paul, where he is supposed to have received Martin Burke and to have helped him on toward Winnipeg. His presence in Chicago just at the time of the Cronin trial will deepen the impression that he is the channel through which Burke draws his supplies.

Woodruff's heart was gladdened this morning by a visit from his mother and his father, Mr. and Mrs. John Black, of San Jose, California, who arrived from there this morning and will remain in Chicago during the trial. Mrs. Black is much broken down by anxiety for her son, and the meeting between them in the jail office was an affecting one. They were together for an hour, when Woodruff had to return to his cell and his father and mother left the building. They absolutely declined to say anything about their plans.

Burke has tired of jail fare, and the mysterious friends who provided him with funds for his fight against extradition in Canada are now trying to keep up his spirits by providing him with three hearty and tempting meals every day from the outside. New evidence in the case is said to have been discovered, to the effect that Iceman O'Sullivan's horses, instead of being in the barn on the night of May 4, were out as late as 9:30, and were tearing about a portion of Lake View, hauling three very excited men behind them in O'Sullivan's ice wagon. At 9 o'clock, the state claims to know, O'Sullivan's horses, covered with foam, were standing in front of a certain Lake View saloon. Three men who had driven the team were in the saloon pouring hot brandy down their throats. What they had done as their share in the murder the state is well aware of, but as to who the men are there is said to be some doubt. It is admitted, however, that the presence of these three men at the saloon has a vital bearing on the case, as will be shown by testimony to be given when the trial commences.

The police claim to-night to have discovered a tinsmith who has identified Martin Burke as a man for whom he soldered a tin box the Monday following the Cronin tragedy, and which is thought, so the police say, to have contained Cronin's clothes. A second soldered tin box is supposed to have contained the missing instrument case.

SULLIVAN MAKES A SPEECH.

He Assures His Friends That He Will Never Fight a Colored Man.

BOSTON, August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—John L. Sullivan returned to his native heath to-night, coming alone from New York on the limited, via the Boston & Albany railroad. The time he was due being known, the vicinity of the depot long before 10 o'clock was crowded by fully 5,000 people, among whom were all the sporting lights of the city and vicinity. When the train reached Huntington avenue station, on the outskirts of the city, the slugger got out, where his father and several friends, advised by telegraph, met him, and he was put in a carriage and rapidly driven to his father's house on Parnell street. When the train reached the depot the disappointed crowd sought redress in tumultuous howling, and were with difficulty dispersed by the police. The wealthier sports at once chartered carriages and started post haste for his home.

When Sullivan reached his home his sick mother was out of bed, the first time in months, for the occasion, and, supported by her son and a friend, awaited the champion at the door. Sullivan, who never was conscious of filial affection, seemed moved at the sight of his mother's devotion, and his greeting was really loving. It took about ten minutes for the neighborhood to hear of the return, and his friends turned out by hundreds and an impromptu reception was held on the steps, fully five hundred persons passing in line shaking his hand. By the time this was over the sports began to arrive by the carriage load, and the scene was transferred to the interior of the house, where the jollification will doubtless go on all night. Sullivan, of course, made a speech, in which he said he liked Mississippi and believed that if he had to go back his imprisonment would not be very irksome; also that he advised Kilrain not to go south and take chances, but keep away from the Mississippi courts; that the intended retiring from the ring after he met Jem Smith, and would pay attention to no more challenges, either from Mitchell or Kilrain, and wanted it understood once and for all, smiting his breast as he spoke, that John L. Sullivan will never fight a "coon." He says he will remain quietly for three weeks before starting out with Muldoon to exhibit. Some time this week a gigantic reception will be given him at Oak Island, a resort some ten miles from the city.

During the speech Sullivan said he intended to offer Smith $1,000 to come to America and fight him in California for $10,000 a side, and Slavin, of Australia, the same. After making these two men fight or take water he would retire. As for niggers, they are only good to black shoes.

ELOPED WITH A PRIEST.

Mrs. McDonald, of Chicago, Goes to Europe With a Clergyman.

CHICAGO, August 20.—The wife of millionaire Mike McDonald, the noted ex-gambler and politician, is missing. The circumstances are most extraordinary. Mrs. McDonald disappeared from her home, at the corner of Ashland boulevard and Harrison street, a week ago last Friday, and though a small army of detectives have been retained to discover her whereabouts they have not succeeded. It is supposed Mrs. McDonald is now in Europe. It was reported this evening that she had for a companion a Catholic priest, who, it is alleged, has been since unfrocked by the church. The priest is supposed to have had a parish in South Chicago, or some suburb in that locality. The story is that Mrs. McDonald became acquainted with the priest while he was on a visit to the parish of which she is a member. He became infatuated with her, the admiration was reciprocated and an elopement was planned and executed. On the momentous Friday evening, Hugh Mullaney, McDonald's coachman, took Mrs. McDonald from the house in a carriage. He said nothing about the matter for a week, though he was aware of the search. Then he told Mike McDonald, saying he had promised Mrs. McDonald to keep secret for a week. He refuses to talk.

McDonald was found at a late hour to-night and acknowledged the truth of the story. W. J. Moysant, of Notre Dame church, a French Catholic congregation, is the fugitive clergyman. He is about twenty-seven years old, while Mrs. McDonald is nearly fifty and gray-haired and a grandmother. Her husband, unlike her clerical rival, is a man of handsome presence. Mrs. McDonald took with her in money, clothing and jewelry not to exceed $5,000. McDonald says the guilty pair underwent a marriage ceremony before a priest, but for what purpose no one can guess. In this respect the elopement is a parallel to a similar escapade ten years ago, in which Mrs. McDonald figured with Billy Arlington, the minstrel. McDonald traced his wife at that time to California, and she swearing in a most solemn manner that, notwithstanding the mock marriage with Arlington, she had not been untrue to him, McDonald took her back to his home and children.

ARRIVAL OF THE TROOPS.

Department of the Platte Soldiers at Fort Robinson.

PRETTY ENCAMPMENT GROUNDS.

The First Engagement Takes Place In an Attempt to Capture the Twenty-First Infantry's Train —Nebraska News.

FORT ROBINSON, Neb., August 19.—[Special Correspondence of THE BEE.]—A bright and warm sun has beaten down on this section of country to-day and everybody is anticipating keenly the opening of Camp Crook, which takes place to-morrow. As already mentioned in my dispatches, there will take part in the encampment troops from every post, save Duchesne, in this department. Niobrara sends a band and six companies of the Eighth infantry and two companies of the Ninth cavalry. Fort Omaha sends the band and six companies of the Second infantry. Sidney will be represented by five companies of the Twenty-first infantry; Laramie by the band and three companies of the Seventh; Pilot Butte, one company of the Seventh; Robinson, band, three troops of the Ninth cavalry and three companies of the Eighth infantry; Bridger, two companies of the Seventeenth infantry and three companies of the Twenty-first infantry; Douglas, band, one battery of the Fifth artillery, six companies of the Sixteenth infantry and one company of the Twenty-first infantry; Russell, band and eight companies of the Seventeenth infantry; McKinney, two troops Ninth cavalry and one company of the Twenty-first infantry and one troop of the Ninth cavalry and two companies of the Seventh infantry from Washakie. This makes a total of seven bands, six battalions of infantry, three of which are full regiments, one battery of light artillery, nine troops of cavalry, about 159 officers and approximately 2,476 men. It is the largest number of regulars which has been gotten together since the reorganization of the army. The object is to enable the older members of the army to keep alive the knowledge of the art of war which many of them acquired on the field, and to give to the younger members and especially those who have entered the army without preparatory training an idea of what army life is.

The encampment will be held about a mile northwest of Fort Robinson. The lines have been drawn with mathematical precision, and when the troops arrive to-morrow morning they will be enabled to march to their respective places, forming one of the prettiest tented fields ever seen in this section of the country. In command will be General John R. Brooke, commander of the department of the Platte. His staff comprises the following officers: Major Peter D. Vroom, inspector general, chief of staff; First Lieutenant Fayette W. Roe, Third infantry, aide-de-camp, acting assistant adjutant general; First Lieutenant Charles M. Truitt, Twenty-first infantry, aide-de-camp; Captain William V. Richards, Sixteenth infantry, acting chief quartermaster; First Lieutenant M. W. Day, quartermaster Ninth cavalry, acting chief commissary of subsistance; Major Dallas Bache, surgeon, medical director; First Lieutenant Charles A. Worden, Seventh infantry, acting engineer officer; Major Guy V. Henry, inspector of small arms practice.

The infantry will be formed into three brigades. The first of these will be commanded by Colonel August V. Kautz; the second by Colonel Frank Wheaton, of the Second infantry; the third by Colonel Matthew M. Blunt, of the Sixteenth. The artillery will be under command of Captain David H. Kinzie.

A signal corps will be formed which will be mounted, equipped and distributed as may be required during the movements to be made.

The encampment will last until September 29. In the meantime, the command will take part in a number of engagements, surprises, forced marches and unexpected calls to duty, in other words, every thing which might be expected from a soldier in the face of the enemy.

The site of the camp is beautiful in the extreme. It is in the gradual and grassy approach to the clay buttes which rise in so imposing a manner north and west of this post. These buttes are more or less connected with the legends of the Indian tribes who formerly inhabited these plains. They are in various stages of demoralization, some of them looking like dismantled edifices of other eras, and not a few suggesting the ecclesiastic ruins which are said to be scattered throughout Europe.

The plain is drained by the White river and Soldier creek, from which water for all purposes may be easily procured.

To-day the first day of excitement over the coming gathering was experienced. Several officers and civilians arrived, and the arrival of others was anticipated by their wives. Among the arrivals were Major Paddock and W. E. Anain, of Omaha; Colonel Randlett of the Ninth cavalry, of Fort Kinney, but who is to be located at this post when Colonel Henry goes to the former place; Lieutenant Buffington of the Seventh infantry, of Washakie; Dr. Bache, Omaha, medical inspector of the department of the Platte; Lieutenant Wright, Ninth cavalry, just returned from the cavalry competition at Bellevue; Mrs. Custer, guest of Mrs. Captain Parker and widow of the captain of that name who died a year ago; Miss Ensign, of New York, cousin of Mr. and Mrs. Lieutenant Wright, of whom she is to be a guest.

Last year the troops complained that the marching to and from the encampment was too monotonous. To vary it this year, General Brook ordered attacks to be made on a couple of the columns, to compel the utmost vigilance on the part of the one and sagacity on the part of the other. The first announcement of a meeting of this kind reached here yesterday, coming from the camp of Colonel Merriam, who was located seven miles from this point. A visit out to the command found it quartered on a great height, with a magnificent view of the surrounding country. The men were resting after the fatigue of the day, the commander desiring to spend the day in camp, having until Tuesday to reach Camp Crook. Colonel Merriam had been ordered by General Brook to attempt the capture of the train of the Twenty-first, under Colonel Casey, from Sidney. Merriam's command, consisting of four companies of the Seventh, was joined near the Niobrara by three troops of the Ninth cavalry and three companies of the Eighth infantry from Robinson. Merriam sent the infantry ahead and with his cavalry watched every movement of the enemy. He found that Casey's teams were parked as they moved along, and carefully guarded by men in front, flanks and rear. To capture it under those circumstances was impossible. Notwithstanding, by means of signals, Colonel Merriam was kept informed as to the changes made in the conduct of the train, the signals coming from Woman's Dress, an Indian scout connected with Fort Robinson. At length the news came that the flankers had been withdrawn. This was cheering news, because Merriam's men were concealed in a pocket in a side hill about four hundred yards from the road. The pocket was near the crest of the ridge. The infantry and government wagons were suffered to ascend the hill and descend on the opposite side, when suddenly Merriam's men rushed from their concealment and cut off from the rest of the train and column six of the contract wagons. The drivers were ordered to turn them round and drive down the hill, but the horses and mules were so jaded that the order could not be complied with. The teams, however, were held about six minutes, by which time Colonel Casey's command learned of the attack and returned to the rescue. While the teams were in the hands of the attacking party sufficiently long to have been destroyed, as they would have been in time of war, as they had not been held fifteen minutes before being retaken, the capture was not considered so successful as it would otherwise have been. Many features of this kind are promised during this encampment.

All the Troops in Camp.

FORT ROBINSON, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—All the troops expected to take part in the summer manoeuvres have arrived and have gone into camp. The Second infantry under the command of General Wheaton arrived early after dinner, having marched from Hemingford, a distance of twenty miles. The soldiers were in excellent condition. This afternoon Colonel Burts, in command of two companies of the Seventh infantry and one troop of the Ninth cavalry, arrived from Fort Washakie. It comprises ninety-nine men, all in excellent health and spirits. The weather is delightful. A couple of days will be allowed the soldiers to recover from the effects of their march, after which the manoeuvres will begin.

Want Their Names Taken Off.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., August 20.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Benjamin F. Allen and T. C. Willey, two of the petitioners in the Cass county bond election contest, have made affidavits stating that without their consent and knowledge their names were attached to the aforesaid petition, and through their attorney, H. D. Travis, of Weeping Water, the affidavits were placed on file with the clerk of the district court yesterday. A motion was also filed asking that the court strike their names from the petition in the above entitled cause, as they had been placed on said petition without their knowledge, permission or consent and remain there against their will.

Experimenting With the Elixir.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., August 20.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Drs. Schildknecht and Siggins to-day had some of the Brown-Sequard elixir prepared from a fine healthy lamb and commenced a series of injections upon four patients who were anxious to try the effects of the reanimating fluid. No decided effect was produced by the first injections, and the doctors say that several injections will be necessary before much change will be noticed. Dr. Schildknecht has been a sufferer from rheumatism for years and he is trying the elixir on himself, although he says he has very little faith in it.

Harlan County Teachers' Institute.

ALMA, Neb., August 20.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The enrollment at the teachers' institute, which convened in this city to-day, was fifty-three, which is more than usual on the first day of the session. Superintendent Goodban expects the enrollment to be double the present number by the middle of the week. The following instructors have been employed: Prof. P. P. Bentley and Jennie Weiman, of the Alma high school; Prof. Doyle and Prof. Morris, of Republican City, and Prof. Smith, of Bartley. Two or three lectures have been announced for each week.

The Office All Right.

BLAIR, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Mr. Branch, the official charged with the investigation of the irregularities in the postoffice here, left this morning. He was very reticent, but is understood to have found everything in order at present and to have expressed an opinion that an attempt had been made to injure Miss Clark. Miss Clark expresses herself as satisfied with the method of investigation and confident of the results. She will hold her office to the end of the term if she is not bounced.

O'Neill Reunion Formally Opened.

O'NEILL, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The reunion was formally opened to-day by an opening address by the president, Peter Greeley, and an address of welcome delivered by the Hon. A. B. Charde, of O'Neill, which was responded to by P. Schwenk, of Norfolk. Each address was well delivered and each speaker was frequently applauded. At the camp fire this evening there was a large attendance, and much interest was manifested.

A Grand Harvest Festival.

WYMORE, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Arrangements were completed here to-day for a grand harvest festival to be held August 27 at Harrison park. The various committees have been appointed, and the prospect for a splendid time are evident. Two brass bands, the Reynolds silver cornet band and the Wymore Juvenile band, have been engaged, and also Battery A Nebraska National Guard. Hon. J. Sterling Morton will deliver an address at 3 p. m.

John Fustain Proves His Innocence.

GRANT, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—John Fustain, a settler, living in the northwestern part of this county, who was reported in these dispatches recently as being warned to leave the country for insulting a lady, and who had armed himself with a Winchester to resist mob violence, has established his innocence. The man who personated him is known, and his longer residence in the community will be at his peril.

Broke Jail.

NIOBRARA, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Frank Guthrie, confined for grand larceny, broke jail about midnight during a raging storm and escaped. He put powder in the locks to the steel cage and let them off one at a time. A note was left for the sheriff, saying he would return in time for court. A fellow prisoner remained, remarking that he was no roadster. The purchasing of the powder was traced to a boy.

Linemen Reach Milford.

MILFORD, Neb., August 20.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The gang of men at work stretching a new wire from Lincoln to Milford have reached here and will go to York tomorrow to run the new line from that place to Grand Island. Yesterday while one of the men, named Albert Stevens, was working at the top of a pole in town, it gave way and he was thrown to the ground, breaking his leg.

Burt County's Republican Ticket.

TEKAMAH, Neb., April 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—At the republican county convention W. M. Nesbit was nominated for treasurer of Burt county; M. G. Morrell, of Lyons, for county clerk; Henry W. Monrowe for sheriff; H. W. Gillis for county judge; E. B. Atkinson for county superintendent; W. E. Pratt for surveyor, and M. J. Gilbertson for coroner.

A Minister's Farewell.

BLAIR, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A farewell reception was this evening tendered to the Rev. H. C. Gaynor, rector of the Episcopal church here. All denominations were represented and the clergy were there in a body. The reverend gentleman has held the charge four years, and is held in the highest respect. He goes to Sioux City.

Out on Habeas Corpus.

DAKOTA CITY, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Frank Lease, a bartender in Scherman's saloon at Homer, who was confined in the county jail for pounding S. Duggan with a beer bottle, cutting his head and face in a horrible manner, was taken out to-day on a writ of habeas corpus.

A Well Attended Institute.

STANTON, Neb., August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The institute is well attended, fifty-six teachers being present. H. C. Ostein and Ellen Austin are the instructors.

THE MILWAUKEE MEETS IT.

It Will Follow in the Burlington & Northern's Wake.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION NOTIFIED

The Central of Iowa Used as a Catspaw to Pull the Northwestern Road's Chestnuts Out of the Fire.

They Gather Them In.

CHICAGO, August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road gave notice this morning that it would meet the 15 cent proportion rate between Chicago and St. Paul, made by the Burlington & Northern, and already met by the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City and Wisconsin Central. The notice of the St. Paul road was given at the opening of this morning's meeting of the Western Freight association, and forestalled a motion prepared by the Northwestern for the doing away with the 15 cent and low commodity tariffs, and a reduction in the local rate to St. Paul from a 60 to a 50 cent basis. The adoption of this proportion, although a large reduction in the local rate, would have had the effect to largely increase the average rates. The Northwestern, seeing itself checkmated, resorted to the historic monkey and chestnut act and induced the Central of Iowa to propose the resolution. As signs of dissent became numerous, the Northwestern itself turned and voted against its own proposition, the Central of Iowa being the only road voting in the affirmative. With this exception, then, the roads in the Western Freight association are unanimously on record as opposing an advance in rates. The Central of Iowa, realizing its betrayal, will come back at the other roads to-morrow morning with a notice that it will apply the 15 cent tariff to St. Paul and intermediate points from Peoria. As shown in these dispatches last night, this will make the 15 cent rate apply to Marshalltown, on the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City. It is manifestly impossible to make this rate and keep up the 60 cent proportional rates to Missouri river points. Unless heroic measures are again adopted or the freight men whipped into submission by their superior officers, the 60 cent Missouri river rate must fall at least 20 cents and a general collapse ensue. The above is the gist of a conversation with a dozen of the principal Chicago railroad men.

The situation in the Western Freight association is now practically a deadlock, no one being able to advance a satisfactory solution.

The Chicago & St. Louis.

NEW YORK, August 20.—The committee having charge of the reorganization of the Chicago & St. Louis railway have practically completed their work and the plan of reorganization prepared by them will probably be given out to morrow. The interests represented by Frank Hollins & Co. have obtained control of a majority of all classes of securities, and will buy in the road at the foreclosure sale on September 5.

The Cent-a-Mile Rate.

CHICAGO, August 20.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The numerous reports that lines everywhere are making the cent-a-mile rate to the Grand Army encampment at Milwaukee are unsupported by the facts. Chairman Knapp, of the Chicago passenger committee, explains the reports by the fact that in numerous cases the lowest limited round trip rate is less than a cent a mile. This is notably the case from New York and Boston, where the association rates are $4.50 and $3.50, respectively, lower than a cent a mile rate. The only roads to date which have made the cent-a-mile rate are the Monon, Kankakee, Panhandle and Fitchburg, though other breaks are almost momentarily expected.

A Blanket Mortgage.

NEW YORK, August 20.—The directors of the Northern Pacific railroad will hold a meeting to-morrow to consider Villard's proposition to place a blanket mortgage of $160,000,000 on the entire property. All the directors but one have pronounced themselves in favor of it. Their powers are limited, however, to a recommendation to place it before the preferred stockholders, who must authorize it by a two-thirds vote.

A SEVERE STORM.

Tracks Overflowed and Several Houses Struck By Lightning.

ST. PAUL, August 20.—The storm which prevailed last night and this morning was one of the most severe ever experienced here. It was at its worst about 2:30 a. m., when it amounted almost to a hurricane. Two inches of water fell between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock, and the lightning furnished constant and vivid illumination. The storm was general throughout this section, in places doing considerable damage. An accident caused by overflowed tracks caused much delay to the people residing between the two cities, several hours being taken to clear the tracks. At Stillwater the lightning killed three horses, and several houses were struck and considerably damaged. The streets were badly washed out.

At Eau Claire, Wis., lightning struck the large agricultural building on the grounds of the Northwestern Fair association, destroying it, together with several thousand bushels of grain and a lot of machinery. Several houses in the vicinity were struck and badly damaged. At Duluth the total damage is estimated at $60,000. Greater losses are feared, as the storm was very severe.

West Virginia Flood Sufferers.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., August 20.—The victims of the recent disastrous flood on the Tucker, Tygart, State, Little Sandy and other creek valleys are many of them in sad need of help. They are houseless and homeless, and but for the charity of neighbors their suffering would be terrible. There are miles of desolate territory with scarcely a house left standing and not a vestige of crops. Homeless women and children are scattered among the hill farmers, while the men are searching for work over the desolate country.

A Cyclone Raging.

HAVANA, August 20.—There are indications here that a cyclone is raging to the north of the island. A telegram from San Domingo reports that the barometer has fallen greatly there.

Establishing Minnesota Grades.

ST. PAUL, August 20.—The warehouse and railroad commissioners held their annual meeting in this city to-day to grant a hearing to all parties interested in the establishment of "Minnesota grades," preparatory to the establishment of the same for the coming crop year. The present "Minnesota grades" have not been materially changed since 1885, and the indications are that as far as the grain of this state is concerned they will remain virtually unchanged. The only communication was made by Chief Inspector Clansen, who recommended a very few small changes in establishment of new grades for the northern white wheat of Minnesota, Idaho and Washington.

Wilhelm Visits Strasburg.

STRASBURG, August 20.—The emperor and empress arrived here to-day. The emperor inspected the guard of honor and immediately afterward drove to the palace, escorted by a detachment Uhlans. The route was lined with enthusiastic crowds.

GOTHAM'S BID FOR THE FAIR.

A Company With a $15,000,000 Capital to Be Organized.

NEW YORK, August 20.—Eighteen of the twenty-five financiers selected by Mayor Grant to constitute the finance committee of the projected world's fair in 1892 were present this afternoon at the initial meeting of the committee in the mayor's office. Many millions of money were represented in the gathering, and the unanimity of feeling was marked. The proceedings were opened by the mayor, who in a brief address expressed his thanks for the support and encouragement given to the object in view by the attendance he witnessed. By an oversight he had omitted to place on the committee the name of one gentleman eminently fitted to act thereon, J. Pierrepont Morgan. A motion to increase the committee to twenty-six by adding Mr. Morgan to it was carried at once. The committee then organized by selecting Samuel D. Babcock chairman and J. Edward Simmons treasurer. An executive committee was then appointed by the chairman. These preliminaries having been attended to, Jesse Seligman made an address, in which he counselled prompt action in the matter of securing the funds necessary for the successful carrying out of the great event. He submitted a plan in which he assumed that $15,000,000 would be necessary for the undertaking. A company should be organized to issue stock to the amount mentioned, which stock would command 2 per cent interest and be guaranteed by the city of New York. The city should be authorized to assume such responsibility by the passage of an act to that end at the next session of the state legislature. The stock should be exempt from all taxation. Congress should be asked to give its hearty support to the scheme at its session in December. When the stock is in shape the people should be asked to subscribe, and the stock divided into as small as $10 shares. When the public generally have had an opportunity to subscribe, the remainder of the stock, if any should remain, could find a ready market.

Seligman asked that his plan be simply received for consideration, and it was so ordered. This plan, with others submitted and to be received, will be presented to the executive committee, who will be asked to select the one most feasible and worthy of consideration.

THE MISSOURI COMMISSION.

The Annual Report Upon the Improvement of the River.

WASHINGTON, August 20.—The members of the Missouri river commission have submitted to the chief engineer their annual report upon the improvement of that river. The report, after reciting how the appropriation of $1,000,000 had been allotted, says that as most of the work was new, careful, surveys and extensive repairs to the plant were needed first, which, together with low water, delayed the beginning of the work. Two surveying parties had covered 300 miles up to June 30, and hoped to cover the entire distance of 1,520 miles this season, thus completing the system of triangulation from Fort Benton to the mouth of the river. Above Sioux City the project contemplates a lower depth of four and a half feet, and three and a half feet has now been attained, facilitating navigation between Fort Benton and Fort Carroll, 160 miles. The operations will be confined to the river between Fort Benton and the coal banks, and will be completed this season. Below Fort Benton permanent work cannot be undertaken until the survey is completed. After giving the details of the work done and the estimates of appropriations required at different points along the river, the commission touched upon the action of congress in the act of 1888, practically rejecting its plan of improvement. It states that the primary object of appropriations was understood to be a desire to benefit navigation, and not to protect private or municipal property from the ravages of the river, although if the latter could be done incidentally so much the better. The systematic improvement of navigation involves the holding of the river in a fixed channel and thus, when completed, protecting adjacent property. But this improvement requires many millions of money and many years time. Property owners are not content to wait, and clamor for protection, and it is impossible to meet all their demands. The river can be controlled only by continuous improvement, and the funds spent in improving certain points can not be considered as applied to the benefit of navigation. An indefinite number of millions of dollars could be expended in that way without appreciable benefit to navigation. It can not possibly succeed if carried on under the terms of the act of August, 1888. In preparing its estimates the commission has kept separate the two distinct interests. These estimates are: Salaries of commission, expenses, works, etc., $150,000; Sioux City, $100,000; Omaha, $150,000; Plattsmouth, $100,000; Nebraska City, $150,000; Rulo, $100,000; St. Joseph, $150,000; Atchison, $75,000; Leavenworth, $100,000; Kansas City, $170,000; Miami, $75,000; Arrow Rock, $100,000; river above Sioux City, $1,700,000; snagging below Sioux City, $60,000; general improvement of river, $1,030,000; total, $2,760,000. The estimate contemplates an expenditure on the river for purposes of navigation below Sioux City of $1,000,000 and above Carroll of $175,000.

THE GREAT FASTER IS DEAD.

Marvel Dies After Sixty-Seven Days Without Food.

INDIANAPOLIS, August 20.—Robert Marvel, after fasting sixty-seven days, died this morning. His case is so extraordinary that it has attracted the attention not only of the curious public but of the medical fraternity far and near. He was eighty-five years old. On June 13 Marvel ate his last square meal. For thirty-six days he took absolutely nothing into his stomach. On the thirty-eighth day he bit off a piece of pie but did not eat it. On the thirty-ninth day he drank a small quantity of milk, and at irregular periods he has continued to do so. All told, he has drank not to exceed one gallon of milk in the sixty-seven days that have elapsed since he began to fast. The effect of this abstinence is such as would be expected. The faster has reduced himself to a living shadow. Sores came upon him by reason of his long confinement, and evidently Marvel has not only suffered long but severely. His big fast is the longest on record so far as known.

All Quiet on the Sioux Border.

CHAMBERLAIN, S. D., August 20.—A lieutenant with a detail of soldiers from Fort Sully has just completed a trip along the edge of the Sioux reservation and reports everything quiet with not a "boomer" in sight. The good effect of the assured opening of the 11,000,000 acres to settlement can already be felt and a wonderful increase in all classes of business is plainly noticeable.

Malietoa Returns to Samoa.

LONDON, August 20.—Advices from Apia report the return to Samoa of ex-King Malietoa and other exiles. The ex-king was warmly welcomed by the natives, and his own flag was hoisted. King Mataafa also greeted Malietoa with cordiality. The German consul informed Malietoa that he was at liberty to do as he pleased.

Signed the Scale.

PITTSBURG, August 20.—The Chambers-McGee glass company at Jeanette, Pa., the largest window glass plant in the United States, signed the window glass workers' scale and will continue in operation. The other manufacturers declare they will not sign.

An Omaha Man's Loss.

CHICAGO, August 20.—George E. Cole & Co., printers and stationers, 84 South Dearborn street, burned out to-night; loss, $40,000; well insured. One-fourth of the loss is on the building, owned by Judge Thomas Dickey, of Omaha.

THE SPEAKERSHIP OUTLOOK.

New York Still Seems To Lean Toward Reed.

MAJOR M'KINLEY WORKING HARD.

Clarkson's Guillotine Shaves Off the Heads of a Regiment of Democratic Postmasters—Kearney Gets Free Delivery.

WASHINGTON BUREAU, THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., August 20.

Major McKinley's frank avowal of his speakership prospects, made last night in Pittsburg, are considered the more significant because he is a man of few words, and least of all talks about himself. A friend of the major said to-night:

"Mr. McKinley does not look hopefully enough toward New England. The twenty-three republicans there, to be sure, will vote for Reed on the first ballot, but it is not by any means certain that they will stick to him through thick and thin. Indeed, I hear that some of them are prepared to desert him, but perhaps the major looks a little too hopefully towards New York and Pennsylvania. Belden and Ketcham, of New York, are openly for Reed, and they don't usually get aboard the wrong train if they can help it, and, strongly as I favor McKinley, and much as I believe that he is the logical result of the situation, being admittedly the strongest western man, I must say that it looks to-day as if Reed might get fourteen of the twenty-one New Yorkers, and hence the whole delegation. Major McKinley wants to watch out for a similar break in Pennsylvania. There is no doubt that Senator Quay is at present favorable to Reed, but we know that Judge Kelly, who aspires to be chairman of the ways and means committee, and John Dalzell, of Pittsburg, who is opposed to everything that has the Quay flavor to it, are for McKinley. My own idea would be to secure a third or more of the Pennsylvanians and so break the Reed in the middle."

"How about the staying powers of the two men?"

"Well, we in the west don't want to make any mistake about that. I am afraid that Reed has friends in Ohio, Illinois and Michigan and that if Reed can hold his strength for a ballot or two McKinley, Cannon and Burrows are all liable to lose by it. I may be mistaken, but I don't count Henderson in it at all. He has Iowa as a matter of course, but does not name a single supporter outside of that state."

"What about the southern members?"

"There, I am afraid you have me again. It will depend a good deal upon which man leads on the second ballot and how the southern members will play politics. They will get aboard the fastest train if they can, and you can't blame them for it."

"Do you look for any interference on the part of the administration or the secretary of state?"

"None whatever. General Harrison and Mr. Blaine are