# ARST SCALP TAKEN.

A Soldier's Dead Body Found Near Pine Ridge Horribly Mutilated.

A MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM RED CLOUD.

He Says He Will Come in With All His Followers.

CHIEF LITTLE WOUND HAS A MISSION.

He Will Tell the Story of His People's Wrongs in the East.

WAR RECORDS OF THE MILITARY AGENTS.

Eighteen Companies of Militia Patrolling the Frontier-Comment on the Interview With Secretary Noble.

PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. D. (via Rushville, Neb.), Jan. 7 .- (Special Telegram to THE BEE. |- The first instance of a soldier being scalped or otherwise mutilated according to the horrible code of the Indians, came to-notice yesterday. Some scoats while patrolling seves miles northwest of here, came across the dead and partly decomposed body of Don Franschetti of troop 6, Seventh cavalry, Franschetti was probably killed in the heavy skirmish that took place a week ago in the vicinity of the Catholic mission. The dead woldier had been scalped and otherwise mutiluted in a manner too herrible for publication. The remains were given a military burial.

The hostiles have withdrawn into a canvon on the west side of White Clay creek, a point eighteen miles from here. They seem to have relaxed in their intention of attacking the agency for the time being. Such at least is the report of spies and scouts sent from here. These reports will undoubtedly hold military operations in abeyance for a time. No one can tell what an hour may bring forth.

The Indians here at the agency to the number of thirty or forty, headed by faithful and old American Horse, held a council Royer and Cooper yesterlay afternoon. The point of the council was that they were opposed to the idea of substituting army officers for civilians as agents of the Indian department. The delegation was composed of some of the most intelligent, best educated and most civilized Indians on the reservation.

All is quiet here this morning. Paymaster Major Baker, who left Rushville this mornmoney to pay off the soldiers, is expected to arrive about 2 p. m.

heir camp last night and making their way over the country towards the various agencies. Whether their errand signifies disintegration or an effort to secure recruits is not yet known, though the scouts think the former. Captain E. P. Evans of the Fifth infantry has been put in charge of the surrendered Indians wounded in the late battle. An issue of 107 beeves was made this morning.

## WORD FROM RED CLOUD.

He Offers to Come In With All His Followers.

PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. D., (via Rushville, Neb.,) Jan. 7.-[Special Telegram to THE Ber, |-The situation remains practically the same as that of yesterday, with the exception that the difficulty is one day nearer settlement. What that settlement will be no one may tell.

Couriers from among the hostiles repeat the announcement that nothing can arrest bloodshed, while at headquarters hopes are entertained that the trouble will soon end in peace. General Miles has not yet heard from Big Road, Jack Red Cloud, He Dog and Little Hawk, who conferred with him on Monday last, and returned to the hostiles. He expects them tonight or early tomorrow. If they do not come, then it is probable that but little delay will take place before he will take the field after them.

Late this evening the general received word from Red Cloud to the effect that he would come in tomorrow morning and bring all the Indians he could with him. The general thinks that Two Strike will accompany Red Cloud and that they may be followed by all the other Indians. General Miles reeived from Washington a telegram announcing the approval of his suggestion of putting the agencies where the trouble exists under military control. This will give the officers in charge authority to exercise police regulations in any matter effecting the peace, good order, conduct and comfort of the Indians.

General Miles is satisfied that this reform will inure to the benefit and happiness of the Indians. He bases his opinion upon the record of the men whom he has recommended for the several positions at the Tongce river, Standing Rock, Resebud, Cheyenne river and Pine Ridge agencies. The officers and their records epitomized are as follows:

Captain Ewers, Fifth infantry, successfully handled over two thousand Indians at the close of the Sioux war and for four years, at Mandan, protected their families and induced them to cultivate their fields and raise large herds of cattle; Captain J. M. Lee of the Ninth infantry, successfully managed the Indians in Indian Territory in 1885 and the San Carlos Indians in Arizona in 1887; Captain T. E. Pierce, First infantry, served through the war, controlled the San Carlos Indians for years, built irrigating ditches and induced his charges to raise bountiful crops; Captain arnest, Eighth infantry, had charge of the Indians in California. He is now sick, and in his place Captain J. H. Hurst has been appointed. His successful experience was in Arizona and

infantry, had charge of the Indians in Calformia, where he stood for their rights whenever they were invaded. And all of these men served during the war and the aggregate of their army life is 140 years. They have not yet been assigned to their stations. General Miles believes, although the agents still retain their positions, these officers will be able to improve the Indian not alone in agricultural and educational matters, but in everything else tending to his advancement.

Mrs. Sykles, formerly superintendent of the Indian schools at this agency, has received permission of General Miles to take Little Wound to Chicago and the east. The lady hopes to have this warrior, who is now among the postiles, and was one of those earliest disaffected, tell the story of the reported wrongs of his people. She returned only a few days ago from Washington and bore a letter from the president to General Miles on the strength of which the request was granted. The lady also bore recommendations from Dr. Mc-Pherson and Dr. Gunsaulus of Chicago.

Yellow Hair, who was wounded on the 30th ultimo, was brought into the hospital today. He endeavored to prevent the attack on Cap tain Jackson of the Seventh and got between the two fires. It is not known whether he was struck by his own people or by the sol-

Medical Inspector Bache reports twentyfive wounded Indians and fifteen soldiers in the hespital.

General Colby of the state militia has eighteen companies patrolling the towns of Valentine, Cody, Gordon, Rushville, Hay Springs, Chadron, Crawford and Harrison, extending 150 miles along the western boundary of the Pine Ridge and Rosebud agencies. The companies comprise 700 men.

Buffalo Bill is assistant to Geneal Colby and will arrive at the agency tomorrow to confer with General Miles. Colonel Baker of Omaha and Major Comegys of Cheyenne arrived today to pay the troops in the field. It will require \$66,000.

Colonel Shafter, who has been on sick leave, returned tonight.

The interview with Secretary Noble of the nterior department, regarding the reports of alleged starvation of the Indians, published Monday, reached the agency this morning. Among other things, the secretary is reported to have said that the story of starving among the Sioux was a pure fabrication.

The treaty of 1877 obliged -the government, he said, to furnish them with a certain amount of food, clothing, implements, horses, cattle, etc., and until they became self-supporting. After ten years, he continues, during which time the government spent millions with a view of placing the Indians on a self-supporting basis. Members of congress very properly began to inquire whether it was the purpose of the government to continue indefinitely and foring for the agency with a wagon full of ever the policy of feeding the Indians who persisted in living in idleness. They thought it about time, said the secretary, to test Some of the hostiles were seen leaving the ability of the Indians to support reduced \$100,000. Not a very large amount. the secretary considered, when compared with the vast sum which the usual appropriation called for. Thereupon, continues the secretary, the Indian began to complain, but made no effort toward feeding himself. The secretary, it is reported-sincerely regretted that the recent action of the military had resulted in ploodshed, and congratulated himself that his department was in no way responsible

This interview provoked general discussion at the agency. The BEE representative investigated the subject and discovered that, on the 7th of last November, Secretary Noble of the interior department transmitted to the president a letter from the agent at the Cheyenne river agency, S. D., dated the 29th of the preceding month, in which it is stated that the best means of preventing an outbreak among the Indians, on account of the ghost dances, would be to take the lead ers of the dangerous element out of the reach of their followers and also, that the only effective way to stop the dances at that agency would be to use the military. In another letter dated November 10 the secretary of the interior transmitted to the president the report of the special agent in charge of Rosebud agency. which set forth that the Indians at that place were extremely dissatisfied and trouble some an account of religious excitement (ghost dances), aggravated by almost starvation; that there was but one remedy to apply, unless the Indians were to be permitted to control

which it was stated was imminent. There were a number of other letters trans mitted to the president, by the same official, referring to other agencies and disclosing a similar state of affairs, the result of which, it is claimed, is the presence of the troops now in the field, in the departments of the Platte and Dakota In view of these tacts it is not understood here bow the secretary could give expression to the views contained in the latest inter views, unless he had forgotten the substances of the reports transmitted by him to the president.

the agency, and that was for a sufficient force

of troops to be sent to prevent an outbreak,

### FIRED ON THE PICKETS. An Attempt to Surprise Brooke's Com-

mand Which Failed. PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. D. (via Rushville Neb.), Jan. 7. - A courier from the camp on White Clay creek says no new developments have occurred at that point. All are anxiously waiting for word to attack the hostiles General Brooke and staff are encamped at Wounded Knee, where they have established headquarters of the department of the Platte. The cordon of troops is closing in around the hostiles in the valley of the White Clay creek. General Brooke has given instruc tions to each commander of troops in this vicinity to patrol the country from one com mand to the other and see that no party of

hostiles escapes. Late last night the camps were aroused by Danota, Captain W. E. Daugherty, First shots from the outlying pickets about

miles from camp. The pickets into camp and said a band Indians tried to surprise them. shooting at them from behind a pile of rocks. They immediately returned the fire. As the night was dark the number of Indians is not known, but judging from the number of shots fired they must have numbered at least twenty. Two troops of cavalry were hurried out to the scene, but on their arrival there they could find no Indians. During the firing one of the pickets was wounded.

Lieutenant Casey Kille !.

truly must be, as an inborn trait or characteristic of the race.

Miller came to his death at the hands of an Indian to whom he had given up his only bed, his last meal of victorals on many an occasion. It was late in the afternoon of the bloody affair of Wounded Knee the treacherous assassin and another Indian met Miller on the prairie. The former said something about fight. Miller told him that he didn't want to fight, particularly with a man whom he had thought enough of to PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. D., (via Rushville, Neb.,) Jan. 7 .- [Special Telegram to THE BEE. ]-Licutenant E. W. Casey of the Twenty-second infantry was killed last night during a skirmish within two miles of Gen eral Brooke's camp by a Brule squaw. RED CLOUD'S PURCHASE.

He Carries Ghost Shirting Back to the Hastile Camp.

PIVE RIDGE AGENCY, S. D. (via Rushville, Neb.), Jan. 7 .- [Special Telegram to The BEE. ]-The very astonishing discovery has been made, or claimed to have been made, that there are nearly three thousand five hundred Indians here at the agency now. The figures seem incredible. A mistake must have been made somewhere. They were given me this morning by Agent Royer in reply to inquiries as to the number of indians here as indicated by the issuing of 107 beeves today. These figures were obtained principally by reports made to the agent by the heads of families, Indians employed about the agency. About ninetenths of the 3,500 are said to be squaws and children, principally children. The idea has impressed all of us steadily that there was an unusually large number of children here and quite a large number of squaws, but I think I state a fact when I say that none of us have for a moment supposed there were any such number as just stated. That it is, and all along has been possible for Indians of uncertain attitude concerning the matter of peace and war, to slip in here, one or two at a time, either day or night and spend as much time as they please, is a fact that has caused a large amount of comment and added very materially to the cause for uneasiness. No stronger proselyting power is possessed

of Indian over Indian, and it is right here that is found the cause for the uncertainness of these so called friendlies at critical times, The great stampede of a week ago last Monday night is attributable, to a very large extent, to the effective work, that had been going on up to that time, of hostile spies who had been visiting the Indians here, constantly, ever since the beginning of this trouble. A departure of vital importance then, that should have been inaugurated weeks ago, but that is needed more than ever at the present time, is a system of the strictest surveillance, whereby no Indian can enter the agency camp without first being thoroughly understood and vouched for by ome of the older official members of the Indian police force. Agent Royer cannot be expected to know all of the 5,700 Indians accredited to this reservation, but he has a good sized force of trusted, thoroughly well posted Indian eutenants, who undoubtedly do know nearly every one and who could spot the spies and dangerous mischief makers at a glance. The arrest and jailing of some of these prying hostiles would without a doubt put a great check on this trouble making amoung those here who are really disposed to be peacable, nd would also result in a much smaller number of the blood-letting hostiles sneaking in

by any people or class in the world than that

the commissary on the border of the bad lands. The appointment "under authority from the president" of Captain E. P. Ewers of the Fifth infantry to take general charge of the surrendered Indians as prisoners of war and arrange their camp ground and draw rations for them from Agent Royer, is but one of six or seven other similar appointments around at the various agencies. From the highest official source I have it that this is purely a war-times move for the sole purpose of giving the agents at those reservations effected by the present trouble the relief from the care of the captured Indians, which is an absolute necessity. These military appointees will, I am further informed, have nothing whatever to do with the business of the agency and in no way partake of the authority of an Indian agent.

here, particularly on days when supplies are

issued and taking back quantities to swell

I was shown the order appointing Captain Ewers and found the specification of his duties as I have given them.

It is claimed that while Jack Red Cloud was in here Monday night, on his peace errand to General Miles, he bought fifteen yards of ghost shirting and took it back to the hostile camp with him.

This is but one of a thousand little incidents that show how the needle of the war compass on the camp of the hostiles is wabbling.

One of the soldiers who had to do with the handling of the Indian dead after the pattle of Wounded Knee stated, in the presence of a number of people, including myself, last night, that two out three of the Indians whom they found dressed like squaws were discovered to be bucks. The matter will undoubtedly be given, with other assertions in connection with the battle, a thorough sifting. Should it be found true, and I know of no reason for doubting the soldier's assertion, the fact will make a material change in the general phase of that affair.

Another surprise in the matter of the number of Indians here was given us this forenoon when nearly a thousand young bucks, all well armed, put in appearance at the beef killing and, with a whoop, joined in the barbarous work which Commissioner T. J. Mor gan, head of Indian affairs, is now putting forth every effort to do away with. At least two-thirds of these armed bucks came in direct from the camp of the hostiles. When they had secured a good chunk of beef tied it to their saddles, they flew back to their camp, some eighteen miles north. American Horse, the one real chief who sto d solid as a rock for peace, order and obedience, all throughout this trouble gave the young bucks an excellent talk this morning, when they had assembled for the beef killing. He cited the fact that those who had remained good and true to the government were being weil fed and cared for. But he told them that if they must fight they should have maliness enough not to take their families with them into war thereby causing

the innocent to be slaughtered. Late this afternoon in response to an offer of \$10 reward for the finding of the body of Isaac Miller, an employe of the government herder, the remains were speedily brought in by an Indian of indefinable attitude, bound on the boards of a wagen, such as is most commonly used by graders for hauling dirt, and was fully exposed to the view of the large numbers or squaws, Indian children and gray haired Indians, whose nature, instluct or whatever you please to call it, led them to burst forth in laughter at the corpse us though it were a "Punch and India" show "New to ter at the corpse as though it were a "Punch and Judy" show. Never before in all my life have I been an eye-witness to so revolting a spectacle. It was the

first time that I had ever been convinced that there is something about the distorted re-mains of a white man, known to have been robbed of life by Indians, that gives satisfac-tion to the average red man and that furnishes him with a source of genuine hilarity. As they looked upon the mangled victim of their brothers treachery, they laughed heartily, a hundred times more heartily than I have ever seen them laugh on any other occasion since my coming here, eight weeks ago. There was something awful in it, when considered as it truly must be, as an inborn trait or characterily

a man whom he had thought enough of to render any service in his power, and Miller tossed him the only weapon he had, a revolver, but the Indian had snifed the blood of Wounded Knee pattle. It had been somether the

Knee battle. It had sent him upon the war path, and catching and cocking Miller's re-volver he exclaimed:

"You give me lead as a friend, I give you "You give me lead as a friend, I give you lead as an enemy," and with this shot Miller squarely in the forehead. This treacherous slayer of Isaac Miller is known, and if he is not killed in battle before peace is restored, he will undoubtedly swing from a government scaffold, as he so thoroughly deserves.

The slayer of Miller had a companion, but whether the latter, was an account. whether the latter was an ac complice is something yet to be proved. One thing is true, however, that Miller was not only shot, but had his head beaten almost out of semblance to the head of a human beaten.

The wounded soldiers who still remain The wounded soldiers who still remain here, being those who are in the most critical condition, are all doing well atthough none of them, perhaps, have passed the danger point. As to the situation, bremains so far as can be ascertained, as critical and wholly uncertain as ever. We are promised another bogus Christ affliction tomorrow, in the person of John St. Clair of Merose, Scotland. He arrived in Rushville today drunker than a lord. It is safe to assert that he will remain here only so long a time as is required for him to make the acquaintance of the toe of Agent Royer's official best.

There is a rumor here tonight which seems to eminate from official circles, to the effect that Commander Morgan of the department at Washington has resigned.

#### A GREAT WAR CORRESPONDENT. The Philadelphia Ledger Compli-

ments The Bee's Representative. Referring to THE BEE's magnificent reorts from the Indian country, the Philadelhia Ledger, one of the most conservative papers in the country, says:

"Since the Crimean war demonstrated the possibilities of war correspondents, some of these reporters of events have made almost as much fame as the generals whose deeds they criticised. The Indian war near the Pine Ridge agency has developed another war correspondent, as yet unknown to fame, who deserves honorable mention, He writes for THE OMAHA BEE, which paper has been the chief source of information respecting the movements of the Indians. THE BEE correspondent differs from more famous war chroniclers in that he simply relates facts as he sees or hears them and loves criticism to others. He has been remarkably accurate in his statements, though someticues twenty-four nours ahead of government reports, and he deserves honorable mention for keeping a cool head and sticking to cts, instead of glorifying himself after the anal fashion of war correspondents."

## FEAR ANOTHER FIGHT.

the Railroad Towns.

RUSHVILLE, Neb., Jan. 7 .- [Special Telegram to Tue Bee. ]-Companies D and E of the First infantry, regulars, that arrived here from the west last night were hurried to the agency this morning early. There is every indication that a great fight is close at hand and from the unusual activity in army circles it would seem as if some fears are entertained that such an engagement will occur before the army is fully ready for it. Rushville being the nearest railroad town to the agency, as well as the base of supplies both for the army and Indian service. The officers of the National guard who arrived this morning have established headquarters here, and the movement of the militia now on the frontier will be directed from this point. General Colby and his staff, Colonel Cody and others have comfortable quarters, and have been extremely busy all morning disposing of bodies of militia so as to best secure the protection of settlements. They have kindly furnished your correspondent with information. ion that detachments of guards will be thrown out from five to ten miles north of the railroad towns and in such other localities as seem most in danger but there is not enough men to cover the entire field exposed to the reservation. Company K from Central City, in charge

of Captain Hanson; company H from Nelson, in charge of Captain H. W. Sharp; recruits for company A from York, and detachments of companies C. N and I, First regiment, and C of the Second regiment, arrived last night and this mornng. They have all gone into temporary camp ere with the guards previously on hand be

ore marching to the front. The government paymaster arrived this morning and with his shekels was escorted to the agency by a detachment of the Seventh cavalry. A very much easier feeling prevails, not only in the towns but through country, and people are calling down bless-ngs upon the heads of those who are instrumental as well as responsible for these measures of protection to the life and property of

## THE INDIAN OUESTION.

he hardy pioneer.

Correspondence Exp aining the Adm nistration's Position.

Washington, Jan. 7.-Correspondence was nade public today explaining the position of the administration on the indian question. The first document is from the president to the secretary of war under date of October I, forwarding communications from the secretary of the interior regarding the spread of the Messiah craze. The president directs the secretary of war to cause a personal investigation to be made by a diresion or department commander of the condition of things among the Sieux and report quickly. In the meantime the secretary should see that all secessary precautions are taken to have the troops in that vicinity prepared to co-operate n the execution of any orders that may be adopted. The next is a letter from the presi dent to the secretary of war under date of November 13, transmitting communications from the secretary of the interior commisdoner of Indian affairs and agents at the different points relating to the disturbed conlition of the Indians and giving instances in which the authority of the agents and Indian police have been vidently defied. situatian seems to added the president, "to be serious. authority and discipline of the agents must be maintained and adequate and early steps taken to prevent any outbreak that may put in perii the nomes in adjacent states. You will therefore assume the direction and responsibility for such steps as may be neces-sary to these ends. You will see that the troops whose services will be in requisition the case of an outbreak are in state of quick readiness to take and

CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.

Independents Insist That Elder Shall Preside Over the Joint Convention.

MEIKLEJOHN'S AUTHORITY DEFIED.

His Order That the Returns Be Opened and Published Ignored.

PRECEDENT AND CUSTOM SET ASIDE.

An Effort to Have the Contest Referred to a Committee of Fifteen.

FOUR HOURS OF PANDEM ONIUM.

The Lieutenant Governor Refuses to Yield His Position and an Adjournment is Taken Until This Morning.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 7. - [Special Telegram to THE BEE. |- Both houses were virtually at a standstill up to neon. The dignified senators were waiting all morning for the representatives to get ready for the all important joint session. Early in the day the official announcement of this fact was made to the house. The represent atives were wrangling all morning over the matter of seats. The great crowd of spectators listened amused, At 11:45, a committee of five was sent from the house to the squate to inform that body that they were ready to confer with a similar committee from the senate on the matter of election returns and a message was received from the senate announcing that a similar committee had been appointed by that body. The house then adjourned until 2:30.

At the afternoon session of the house Mr. Kruse of Knox offered the following resolu-

Resolved. That the joint rules governing the senate and house of the session of 1889 be adopted, with the exception of rule 15, which shall be amended to read as follows: "When there shall be a joint convention of the senate and house, the proceedings shall be entered at length on the journal of each house. The speaker of the house shall preside over such convention and the secretary of the senate shall act as clerk, assisted by the chief clerk of the house."

Taylor moved the previous question on the

Taylor moved the previous questio non the adoption of the resolution, which was carried, and the resolution was finally adopted, but not without vigorous opposition on the part of the democrats. White of Cass on the part of the democrats. White of Case refused to vote on the ground that the house had no constitutional right to change the rules pending the counting of the vote for state officers.

Under a resolution by Schroder the following officers were elected: Mrs. E. M. Gillesing officers were elected: Mrs. E. M. Gillespie, postmistress; Miss Jennie Carrothers, assistant; W. M. Brown, assistant door-keeper; J. J. Young, mail carrier. Janitors—S. B. Hughes, M. Murphy, M. T. Ward, S. E. Keene, T. J. Rennick. Assistant sergeant at-arms, W. O. Dungan; custodian of the cloak room, E. M. Carr; speaker's clerk, W. H. Daiton. Ten pages were also elected.

The committee on seats reported that the

The committee on seats reported that the of the speaker, and the republicans and dem-ocrats on the right. The recommendation was adopted and a fifteen minute recess was

The republican and democratic mem-pers of the house were astounded by Speaker Elder coolly announcing during the session that there would be no discussion or jangles among the independents

on the floor, and that their differences would all be settled in caucus. While all this was in progress in the house, Licutenant Governor Micklejohn surprised the independent senators by a ruling that somewhat upset their plans. Senator Poynter of Boone, moved that a committee of three be appointed consisting of Collins, Beck and Christofferson, to confer with a like committee of the house to set a time for canvassing the election returns. The chair ruled the motion order holding that no business would be in order until after the organization of the house, as a conference of the joint committee took precedence of all other business. The senate then adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

At 3 o'clock the house and senate went into joint session for the purpose of canvassing the votes cast at the last general election. As soon as the two houses were fairly eated in joint convention it became eviden that trouble was at hand. The house just amended the joint rules, providing that the speaker, and not the lieutenant governor, should preside over the joint convention when the senate was announced, and that body had taken no action on the matter. The lieutenant governor taking his position

opposed, behind the speaker's desk, spoke as follows: "Gentlemen of the Joint Convention—By virtue of the authority in me vested as lieu-tenant governor of the state of Nebraska, I now declare the house of representatives as duly organized; that there is now present a majority of each house of the legislature, witness the opening and publishing of the re-turns of the general election held within and for the state of Nebraska, on the 4th day of November, 1800, of the votes cast for the members of the executive departments and proposed amendments, Mr. Speaker, you will ow proceed in accordance with the constitu-

tion to canvass the said vote." Speaker Elder asked: "How will you have the contest disposed of!" [Hisses.] Senator Stevens of Lincoln introduced the following resolution:

Whereas, A contest for certain state offices whereas, A contest for certain state offices is now pending.
Resolved, That the counting and publishing of the votes be suspended until the contest is decided in the manner prescribed by law.
Resolved, That the publication and announcing of the result of the vote shall not be construed as giving any right to either contestants or contestees to the respective offices.

testants or comesces to a special commitoffices.

Resolved, That there be a special committee of fifteen—six from the senate and nine
from the house—to whom all questions relating to these contests shall be referred, and
who shall have full power to send for persons
and papers, and shall report to this body as
soon as practicable.

Long C. Watson arose at this juncture and John C. Watson arose at this juncture and

proceeded, amid loud objections from independents, to make a point of order that such a resolution could not be entertained as it would be contrary to the constitution. Speaker Elder proceeded to put the motion on the adoption of the resolution, but Presi-dent Meiklejohn, in a clear and distinct voice, stated that according both to the joint rules of the two houses and by a usage running

presiding officer of the body and proposed to This statement was received with loud cheers by both democrats and republicans.

Speaker Elder sat down, protesting in a rather inaudible voice that he was Confusion now broke loose and members on

back to twenty one sessions, he was the legs

all sides called upon the speaker to "put their Quiet being comparatively restored; President Meiklejohn in a firm voice, quoting the constitution and citing authorities for his action, sustained the point made by Watson, and declared that nothing would be in order except the opening of the returns by the speaker and publishing the result of the election.

Cheer after cheer from the excited and ubilant democrats rent the air at this ansuncement. Senator Stevens (ind) of Lincoln county

w arose and appealed from the president's decision.

Mr. Meiklejohn, extending his hand, and amid salmost breathless silence, said: "I must hold that this being a plain and palpa-

Senator Stevens at length demanded that the galleries be cleared, but White of Cost

ble violation of the constitution, that

appeal will lie.

Pandemonium now reigned supreme.

was on his feet in an instant, insisting that the legislature could not sit with closed doors. This demand had a salutory effect upon the crowd, and when the noise abated somewhat, President Meiklejohn, turning to the speaker said: "Mr Speaker, I now ask that you proceed to open and publish the re-turns of the last general election in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the state of Nebraska."

SpeakerElder, is reply, said: "Notice having been served upon me that a contest is pending in regard to certain state officers, I decline to do so until so directed by this joint conven-

tion "
Meiklejohn repeated the demand amid the wild din raised by the independents. Taylor now moved to adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow, but the lieutenant-governor ruled that if this motion should carry n his opinion this legislature could transact

o legal business.
Patrick Ford of Omaha now got the floor and shouted that no adjournment could be taken, as they might keep on adjourning all

Speaker Elder by this time had recov-ered his breath, and at the demand of the in-

dependents put Taylor's motion to adjourn and declared it carried.

Still no independent moved from his seat. John C. Watson again go, the floor and made a conciliatory speech, hoping the members would not act like school boys or ward hummers, but would remember that they bummers, but would remember that they were sworn officers of the law, and bound by their eath to obey the constitution. President Meikiejohn again demanded that he speaker open the returns, and that officer proceeded to do so, when Attorney Lamb rushed up and whispered in his ear, and he

mmediately desisted.
Pat Ford of Omaha again got the floor and emanded what the prohibition lawyer was

oaching the speaker.

Speaker Elder braced up again and put the Speaker Elder braced up again and Stevens resolution and declared it carried. Republicans and democrats abstained from voting. The resolution was now read by voting. The resolution and it looked as if Assistant Clerk Holden, and it looked as he independents had carried the point, but President Meiklejohn declared the motion had not been entertained and again nanded that the speaker proceed with his

Speaker Elder now read a list of members making the committee of fifteen called for by the Stevens recolution, and the members named, with Stevens at their head, came for-ward, and for a moment it looked as if they would carry away the returns and other pa-pers, but wiser counsel prevailed. Tom Cooke was observed standing near the speaker, and some independent called attea-tion to the matter and stated that Cooke might make away with the papers. Speaker Elder declared that Cooke could not get away with the papers so long as he was there, and he would defend them with his life, which

provoked roars of laughter.
Senater Stevens now made an impassioned speech, disclaiming on the part of the inde-pendents any desire to violate the constitu-tion, but insisting that each member had the right to construe that instrument. For him elf he was answerable only to his own con-

Speaker Elder got in another speech, say ing: "My God, boys, settle this thing." I am ready to go shead when so directed by this joint convention. I have faced enemies before and am not afraid now."

Senator Christofferson of Douglas now got the floor and proceeded to talk against time, reviewing the whole situation and declaring that Boyd should first be seated, and the the contest opened in regular form, citing authorities to sustain his position. He was subjected to a mercitess fire from the inde-Stevens (ind) of Furnas made a lengthy

speech, insisting that the farmers had a right to put their own construction upon the con-stitution, and should not allow themselves to be put down by one man's power. Stevens (ind.) of Filmore spoke in the same strain Motion after motion to adjourn was put by

ed carried, but still the independents held their seats Kruse of Knox rushed up to the clerk' desk, demanding that the speaker should put their motions, and defied the lieutenant government ernor, who threatened to put him under ar-

During a bill in the proceedings an assistant sergeant-at-arms demanded of the presi-dent whether they were bound to obey his orders, and was answered, "As long as I am presiding officer I think I have the power to ontrol the employes of this body. But still his orders were disobeyed. Mc-Kesson (rep.) of Luncaster finally got the floor and said, "If it were not for the pre

of some two by four lawyers (referring to Lamb, Allen and Strickler) this wrangle would never have occurred. President Meiklejoha now turned to Speak-er Elder and sternly said:

"As presiding officer of this joint convention, I again demand that you proceed to perform your duty. Will you open the returns count the ballots and publish the result ac cording to the constitution you have sworn to support! Again Speaker Elderaffirmed that he would

leave the matter to the convention, and was answered by a ringing cheer from the inde Dunn (ind) of Colfax shouted out, "Let us drop both Boyd and Powers and put Richards in for governor," which put both sides in comparatively good humor.

Christofferson disclaimed having any ani-posity towards Powers, but hinted that a third party (meaning Thayer), unless all the forms of law were complied with, would use this as a pretext to seize the office.

The motion to adjourn being again pressed, the president said that as the seal had been broken nothing was in order but to open and complete the count.

Elder shouted out that the package was not sealed; that he had only untied the string, which again brought down the house. The motion to adjourn, coupled with a pro-

viso that the returns should remain in the possession of the speaker, was renewed. This frightened Elder, who cried out, "I don't think these returns should go out of this capitol. I don't want to take them to my room down town and try and protect them. You have a governor and supreme court, and a secretary of state, who have the safes, and left them. let them keep the returns. I call upon you to

Protect me. "
A motion that the speaker and licutesant governor should jointly act as custodians was met with a flat refusal by President Meikle-After four hours of incessant jangling, both

sides being worn out, Mr. Wutson, through Church Howe, offered the following: Resolved. That this convention take a recess until 10 o'clock tomorrow, and the returns be placed in the custody of the secretary of

President Meiklejohn called in vain upon

be clerks to read the resolution. Finding that they would not do so, he read the resolution himself and put the motion, which carried unanimously. Church Howe then arose and stated that it was rumored on the floor that the returns had been tampered with, and that the ballots

time, and hat the rumor was absolutely without any foundatio Secretary Cowdery at length appeared, took charge of the returns, and the members and wast audience poured out of the capital build-

Thus ended the first day's contest in what promises to be the most exciting political struggle in the history of the state. The independents are now in caucus, and under the advice of their attorneys will probably seize control of the joint convention tomorrow and oust the lieutenant governor from his rightful position as president. The feeling on both sides is intense, and many predict that open violence may yet follow.

In the morning the battle will be renewed.

and what the outcome may be is beyond con-Melklejoin's Backbone. LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 7. | Special to THE BEE. |-The independents were badly out-

generaled today by the bold and gritty Meiklejohn, lieutenant governor. When he replied to the appeal of Senator Stevens, that

from so plain a construction of the constitu from so plain a construction of the constitu-tion an appeal will not lie, he struck the key note of the situation, and by one master stroke practically settled the whole controversy. Had the senator from Lincoln proceeded to put his own appeal, as many ex-pected he would do the situation would have become very serious indeed. Mcklejohn held his piace, and every time the speaker put a question he declared the question not carried. question he declared the question not carried, and though every officer and clerk was against him his decisions were finally ac-

cepted. The parliamentary skill of John C. Wasson never came in better play and the masterly management of the case by Christofferson won the admiration of even the independents.

At one time it looked as if Lieutenant Governor Meikiejohn would be removed by force. Representative Schroeder moved down the also and faced the officer, declaring that they did not recognize him, and calling upon the did not recognize him, and calling upon the speaker to put his motions. Kruse of Knox speaker to put his motions. Kyuse of Knox walked up to the clerk's desk and would not sit down. An assistant sergeant-at-arms openly defied the presiding officer, and the sergeant-at-arms of the senate did not put in an appearance.

A motion to adjourn at 5 o'clock was put by the speaker and declared carried no re-publicans or democrats voting but still the members remained, held in their places by the firm and resolute conduct of the presiding officer.

Senator Christofferson at length obtained the floor and spoke for nearly an hour on the merits of the case. Church Hawe finally in-troduced a resolution, providing that a recess should be taken, and the president ruled this motion in order. The clerks of both house and senate refused to obey the order of the president, and Lieutenant Governor Meikle-john read the resolution himself, and the motion carried with no opposition

#### A Madamus Served on Elder.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 7.- Special Telegram to THE BEE.]-A mandamus, issued on petition of State Auditor Benton, has been served on Speaker Elder, requiring him to proceed with the counting and publishing of the returns as required by the constitution. It is rumored that the independents in caucus decided to ignore the writ, and ugly rumers are affoat to the effect that they will deny admission to President Meiklejohn to the hall of the house tomorrow, or refuse to recognize him as president of the joint convention

Legislative Notes .. Patrick Ford of Omahahas undertaken the ob of coaching Speaker Elder.

Chaplain Differ bacher officiated from the clerk's desk for the first time this morning. The capitol is literally overrun with boys and girls, all expecting to be appointed pages, Speaker Elder is proving to be a natural humorist, and his humor crops out on all oc-

It looks now as if all important legislation will be determined in the secret caucus of the

independents. Pat Ford of Douglas amused himself all noraing by puzzling the speaker on parliamentary points.

Church Howe has finally been recognized. Speaker Elder appointed him a member of the committee to arrange for the drawing of Speaker Elder, Chief Clerk Johnson and

Assistants Halden and Bigetow appeared be-fore Chief Justice Cobb this morning and took the oath of office, Good natured Tom Cooke is proving invaluable to the independents in the organiza-tion of the house. They find it almost im-possible to dispense with his services.

At their caucus last night and this morning the independents decided to waive the canvass of the vote on the state officers and refer the contest to a joint committee of fif-

While a motion to appoint three from each party to provide for drawing seats was pend-ing the inquiry, "How many parties ar-represented here?" was raised and the speaker replied, "There hadn't ought to be There are only seven lawyers in the house

three republicans and four democrats. The epublican members are Church Howe, John Watson, and Cornish of Lancaster. democrats are Breen, Bertrand, Capek Felker, all of Omaha. There is not a s There is not a single lawyer among the independents. Burrows is working might and main to have the legislature exclude all daily papers from both houses. The republicans and

democrats declare that Burrows will run gainst asnag if he attempts to force the dependents to carry this through. Representative Watson will champion the cause of the daily papers.

#### THE KANSAS SENATORSHIP. An Interesting Letter Published in the Alliance Organ.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 7.—The Alliance Adva-

cate, the organ of the Kansas state farmers' alliance, in to-day's issue published a letter from Congressman F. J. Turner of Kansas to Frank McGrath, president of the Kansas farmers' alliance, in connection with the pending senatorial contest. The letter has created considerable of a sensation in political circles. The following excerpts are tuken from it. "Ingails will try to force his election or drive alliance men into a caucus to agree upon their man in order to force the election of an alliance man so he can carry the party down with him. Have just received a letter from Farwell at Osborn and he says their representative does not like the alliance candidate and would vote for some good republican, but not for Invalls. Farwell wants to know if I want his vote: thinks it can be had. I saw Senator Berry or Marshall here yesterday. He is positively opposed to Ingralls, but will vote for him if there is no other republican. Judgo Perkins asked me to talk to him in his (Perkins') interests and I did so. I told him to talk Senator Wilson of Hays City, as I thought he felt as Berry did. I shall write Wilson tenight and ask him what he thinks about the possibility of my election. I have no money to spend in the fight. If I succeed I could and would put up \$5,000, but it is diffi cult to use it that way, yet you may have some friends who would be willing to take such a chance. Now, I will leave the whole matter with you and Wilson and abide the results with content. Unless Ingalls gets some alliance votes he will go in with 62 who will vote for him a reasonable number of times, but as soon as their instructions are completed they will leave him. Some of the alliance candidates may expect to get some republican votes when they leave Ingalls. That would keep all of them in the field. Codding thought h could get the republican vote when ingalis was out of the way. Of course the alliance

caucus would name a man and a time to set-tle it." from one county had been abstracted.

This brought Eider to his feet, who hastened to assure the convention that he hastened to assure the convention that he Chairman Chase of the alliance legislative.

Chairman Chase were made of the letter committee. Copies were made of the letter and the original was turned over to Mc-Grath. The alliance leaders then asked Mc-Grath to give the letter to the public and clear himself of any suspicion which might attach to the proposition contained in h refused to give the letter to Chairman Chase for publicity, knowing nothing of the cord's having been made. Chase then turned over his copy of the letter to the editor of the Advocate. Accompanying the publica-Advocate. Accompanying the publica-tion is a note by the editor, Dr. McLally, saying: "We regret the position in which the publication of this letter places the president of the state alliance and member of the executive board (Codding). We leave them to make such explana-tion as they may have to make. Stories that are unfounded in this interesting document are worthy of some consideration at this time. We expect this publication to lead to

other developments, which we shall give to our readers as the plot unfolds." McGrath said tonight that the alliance offcers were at liberty to inspect all his letters. He could not prevent people from writing to him. Further than this he would not tal.