IN DANGER OF BEING STOLEN.

Extra Precautions Taken to Guard the Maximum Freight Rate Bill.

ADDITIONAL POLICE PLACED ON DUTY.

A Motion to Kill the Enacting Clause of the Bill Prohibiting Passes to Public Officials Fails to Carry.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Early this week the rumor was circulated that the maximum freight rate bill, which was then in the engrossing room of the house, had been tampered with, and that the features in which the changes had been made would not be discovered until after the bill had gone to the senate.

The rumor set some of the house officers wild. They redoubled their watchfulness and took extraordinary care in comparing the bill as it came from the engrossers' hands. The senate committees likewise thought it was time for them to exercise vigilance. The Stevens maximum rate bill was then in the hands of the senate engrossers. On the pretense that it might come up early the next morning the engrossers were kept to work on it nearly all night. The following day another copy of the bill was ordered and was gotten out with the same amount of expedition.

The bill, however, has not yet made its appearance in the senate, although it has been reported from the committee. The report is the only thing relating to the measure which the clerk has in his possession, the bill itself being retained by the chairman of the committee. He also retains the duplicate which it was thought necessary to have made in order to provide against the stealing of the original.

This fear of robbery or sharp practice seems to have taken possession of every officer connected with the senate. Secretary Pirtle was so stirred up that for several nights past he has had a watchman sleeping in his office. This, however, did not prevent some scoundrel from breaking into the office of the lieutenant governor night before last and attempting to break open one of the desks used by Private Secretary Seely, as recorded in THE BEE yesterday.

To still further guard against robbery one of the regular police force of the capitol is now on duty before the offices of the lieutenant governor and secretary of the senate and another before the office of the chief clerk of the house. These men will be kept in these positions until the close of the session. Besides, there is a watchman in the senate and house and a couple of more men to patrol the long corridors on the several floors. New locks have been placed on the senate doors and the adjoining offices which are unprovided with safes, and in fact everything has been done to outwit the sneaks who are known to be prowling around.

The work of ascertaining who it was that broke into the lieutenant governor's room is progressing. Private Secretary Seely has had made a duplicate of the key which was found in his lock. It is a key which belonged to a desk purchased four years ago at the same time Seely's desk was bought. By means of this duplicate the desk to which the broken key belongs will be discovered and the party using the latter will be compelled to explain how his key got out of his possession.

The Senate.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The senate met at 10:15 o'clock. Messrs. Christofferson and Shea were absent.

A message from the house announced that that body had passed roll No. 34, regulating stockyards, and No. 9, relating to crimes. It also announced that that body had not concurred in the senate amendments to house roll No. 31, the bill providing for the issue of bonds for the purchase of seed for drouth sufferers, and suggesting the appointment of a conference committee to amend the same.

On motion of Senator Stevens the committee was appointed as follows: Messrs. Stevens, Poynter, Randall, Brown and Woods.

Senator Switzler introduced the following from the bankers of the Omaha clearing house, which, however, he stated, did not necessarily reflect his own sentiments:

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 25.—To the Honorable Senate of the State of Nebraska—Gentlemen: We, your petitioners, the banks forming the clearing house association of Omaha, and other banks in said city, respectfully represent and petition as follows:

Your honorable body is considering the adoption to the amendments of the laws of the state pertaining to usury. The banks signing hereto make no loans at a higher rate than that permitted by law. On the contrary, the rate of interest maintained and charged by our respective institutions, will average much less than the maximum rate. We are, therefore, not directly interested in the matter of penalty to be imposed for violation of law. We are, however, cognizant of the fact that the maximum now fixed, which is ample for the loaning operations of a large commercial city, is insufficient for sparsely settled localities where the supply of capital is limited in amount. To impose extreme operative penalties with the present maximum rate would result in the removal of all loaning capital from such localities and deprive borrowers there of a convenience and privilege to which they are as much entitled as the residents of a wealthier community—that of borrowing money when their necessities or desires demand it.

So far as commercial transactions extend, we are convinced that the interests of the borrowers everywhere would be best served by the abolition of all penalty rather than the imposition of severer ones. The prohibition conveyed in the present law is sufficient to prevent lending at an increased rate, by capitalists who respect the law, and, in consequence thereof, the borrower at such rate is required to pay not only the rate the money is worth, but a sum additional thereto to cover the risk involved in the transaction. It follows that, in practice, usury laws always act detrimentally upon the class of people for whose benefit and protection they are supposed to be designed.

Remove all prohibition and penalty and the law of supply and demand would have unimpeded operation and competition would decide the rate to be paid.

We, therefore, respectfully petition and recommend that you adopt the bill introduced by Mr. Taylor—senate file No. 130—which bill repeals the present usury law and is similar to the law prevailing in Massachusetts and other states, where it has proved to be to the best interest of the people to maintain no usury law.

First National bank, H. Kountze, president; Omaha National bank, W. Wallace, cashier; Nebraska National bank, H. W. Yates, president; Merchant's National bank, Ben B. Wood, cashier; United States National bank, M. T. Barlow, cashier; Commercial National bank, A. P. Hopkins, president; Union National bank, Henry F. Wyman, cashier; National Bank of Commerce, J. N. Cornish, president; Nebraska Savings bank, Samuel Cotner, vice-president; Midland State bank, Lew Spratlen, cashier; American Savings bank, A. V. Powell, cashier; Omaha Loan & Trust company's Savings ban'; Frank J. Lange, cashier; Omaha Savings bank, John E. Wilbur, cashier.

The Blue Ridge farmers' alliance petitioned for the right of suffrage for women in city and village elections.

Citizens of Hamilton county protested against the passage of the law affecting the salary of the chairmen of county boards.

Another remonstrance was presented against reducing counties to less than eighteen miles in width.

Citizens of Loup county asked for a recounting of the vote cast on the prohibitory amendment.

The following reports were received from committees:

Judiciary—Recommending the passage of senate file No. 89, relating to the election of assessors.

County and County Boundaries—Recommending the passage of senate file No. 63, relating to the time of holding county commissioners' meetings.

Judiciary—Recommending the passage of senate file No. 21, relating to mechanics' liens. Adopted.

Agriculture—Recommending for passage senate file No. 175, enabling the purchasers of seed grain to mortgage the crops grown therefrom.

Agriculture—Recommending the passage of house roll No. 3, suppressing bucket shops.

Same—Recommending for passage house roll No. 25, for the extermination of Russian thistles.

Judiciary—Recommending the indefinite postponement of senate file 187, regarding the consecutive numbering of bonds.

Same—Recommending the passage of senate file No. 112, regarding the accepting of illegal interest.

Same—Recommending the passage of senate file No. 106, providing for a state board of health.

Education—Recommending the passage of senate file No. 116, giving county superintendents discretion in the establishment of school districts on the petition of taxpayers.

Senator Mattes introduced a resolution asking for information concerning the number of employes of the senate. The resolution was laid over.

The following bills were read the first time:

Senator Poynter, Senate File No. 262—To form the new county of Boyd.

Senator Day, Senate File No. 263—Amending section 139 of chapter 77 of the compiled statutes of 1889, entitled "revenues," and to repeal said original section.

Senator Shumway, Senate File No. 264—Amending section 18 of chapter 19 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska of 1887, entitled "courts."

Same, Senate File No. 265—Amending section 5 of chapter 17, compiled statutes of relating to the boundaries of Thurston county and to repeal said original section.

Senator Schram, Senate File No. 266—Concerning the care of and to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases among domestic animals, to provide for the appointment of a state veterinarian and assistants, defining their powers and duties and regulating their compensation, and to repeal article 2, chapter 4, compiled statutes.

Senator Williams, Senate File No. 267—Providing for the payment of the fees and mileage of jurors in the district court and of grand jurors.

Senator Collins, Senate File No. 268—A bill for an act conferring upon women the right to vote for electors of president and vice president of the United States.

Senate file No. 47, providing for the amalgamation of counties, on a two-thirds vote was lost.

Adjourned.

The House.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Mr. Moan introduced the following resolution:

Whereas, On January 16, house roll No. 82, an act regulating the rates to be charged by telegraph companies, was printed and referred to the committee on telegraph and telephones; and

Whereas, Said committee have not as yet considered said bill; therefore, be it

Resolved, That said committee is hereby ordered to return house roll No. 82 to this house and that the same be placed on the general file.

Mr. Moan said he had endeavored for some time to get the committee to act on house roll No. 82, a bill to regulate telegraph charges, and was sorry to call the attention of the house to the matter.

Mr. Curtis, chairman of the committee, explained that he had called several meetings, but no quorum had responded, and that absence on other committee business had prevented the consideration of these measures. He said further that a meeting would be held this evening and this bill would be taken up.

After hearing this explanation, on motion of Schappel, the resolution was tabled—46 to 36.

At the afternoon session the house went into committee of the whole to consider bills on the general file.

House roll 151, by Moan, prohibiting the issuing of free passes by railroads to persons holding offices of public trust was taken up.

Breen thought the bill was introduced for mere buncombe and could be evaded in many ways, and moved to strike out the enacting clause.

Moan said there was no doubt that passes are issued to obtain favors from the public that they could not otherwise secure.

Newberry said that while the 2-cent fare bill was pending passes were distributed among independents.

Cornish thought it would be better policy to enact a law compelling railroads to issue free passes to public officers.

Fee was suspicious of the bill and felt that if a man took a pass the railroads would have a "cinch" on him and could ruin a man by merely sending him one of these courtesies.

Ford (dem.) said he received a pass a few days before the legislature opened and rode on it to Omaha every Saturday night and was not ashamed of it and did not think the railroads had any influence over him.

Scott (ind.)—On this side of the house we have conscientious scruples against accepting passes and cannot ride on them with a clear conscience like the gentleman (Mr. Ford) from Douglas.

Tilton (ind.) insisted that a large per cent of the travel on the B. & M. was on free passes.

Soderman (ind.) had transacted considerable business with railroads, but never had a pass offered him until elected to the legislature. [Laughter.]

Stevens of Furnas opposed striking out the enacting clause, and believed that as the 2 cent fare bill would reduce the receipts of the roads the passage of this bill would be only an act of justice.

White favored the passage of the bill, as he did not think any present member of the legislature would be returned or elected to any office of public trust. [Laughter.]

Mr. Moan again took the floor and proceeded to answer some personal allusions to himself.

Breen did not have any sympathy with any movement to declare public officers in Nebraska a pack of thieves.

Brennan (dem.) thought the bill was a good measure and that railroads rubbed up pretty close to public officials and did it through passes. He proposed to vote for the bill. [Applause from the independents.]

Jones (ind.) did not believe the state had the power to compel railroads to pass public officers free, as advocated by Cornish.

Felker (dem.) was opposed to the bill on principle. If he desired to make a present to any one he thought he should not be denied that right.

Gaffin (ind.) declared that free passes to public officers was the most prolific source of corruption in this country and the baneful effects of the system may be observed upon the floor of the house today.

Stearns (ind.) did not think the bill goes far enough, but was satisfied that free passes had been used to corrupt public officials and was little less than a wholesale system of bribery which should be utterly destroyed.

Howe admitted that free passes had corrupted the politics of this state. He thought, however, that the evil could not be reached by legislation.

The motion to strike out the enacting clause was lost—20 to 55.

Watson moved to amend the bill so that the prohibition would apply to all persons, and did not think the law would be constitutional.

Shrader moved an amendment, excepting the employes of the line, which was adopted.

Several other attempts were made by members from Douglas to amend the bill, all of which were voted down.

Moan moved an amendment excepting children under eight years old.

Cramb moved to strike out all of section 4, which provides a penalty, including both fine and a forfeiture of his office, in the case of a public official who violates the law.

The bill was reported back for passage by a vote of 57 to 21.

The committee also recommended for passage house roll 71, by White, which authorizes cities of the second class to make a special levy for gas and for electric light.

The committee arose and the house took up and passed a bill by Oakley, authorizing the boards of supervisors in the various counties to issue bonds not to exceed 3 per cent of the assessed valuation, with a maximum limit of $20,000, and use the proceeds to purchase seed for the needy farmers, selling the same for 10 per cent above cost, taking a promissory note from the purchaser, payable in five years, and bearing 7 per cent interest. The bill received ninety votes, nays, none.

A committee, consisting of Dobson and Howe, were appointed to wait upon the supreme court and obtain its opinion as to the constitutionality of this measure.

The house also passed the bill introduced by Stevens of Fillmore making eight hours a legal day's work for all classes of workingmen except those "engaged on the farm or in domestic labor"—yeas 69, nays 14.

The negative votes were cast by Ames, Albert, Frost, Clapp, Cramb, Flamme, Gerdes, Hinkle, Johnston, Matheson, Lamp, Nelson, Severin and Vandeventer.

The house adjourned to 10 a. m. tomorrow.

Tore Up His Pass.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—When the house voted to report back the bill prohibiting free railroad passes with the recommendation that it be ordered engrossed for a final reading, Church Howe became so violently excited that he exclaimed: "Now come forward and tear up your passes," and suiting his action to the word he tore up an annual on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley in a dramatic and highly sensational manner, and threw the pieces in the aisle. When this question was under consideration a few weeks ago Howe declared that he did not have any passes, and the independents are laughing in their sleeves at this outburst of petulance, which disproves his former statement.

Reminding the Senate of Its Duty.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Mr. Modie of Red Willow introduced the following resolutions:

Whereas, A majority of the members of both branches of the legislature having promised to their constituents before the election that they would, if elected, vote for a maximum rate bill requiring the railroads of this state to charge the same freight rates as those charged in Iowa; and

Whereas, The members of the house of representatives have kept their promise by passing a maximum freight rate bill prescribing the identical rates as those charged in Iowa; and

Whereas, It is currently reported through the press and elsewhere that the railroad lobbyists have stated that they intend to defeat all railroad legislation by having the senate advocate a different bill from the one passed by the house; and

Whereas, In former years all railroad legislation has been defeated by the senate; therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this house that no member of the senate who promised his constituents to vote for the Iowa rate has the right to vote for any bill prescribing a different rate;

Resolved, That any attempt by the senate to defeat the Iowa freight rate bill by adopting a different measure, whether done innocently or intentionally, would be playing into the hands of the railroad companies, and would be a direct violation of the promises made to the people of this state by all political parties.

Mathewson said the members of the house would do well to control themselves without attempting to dictate to the senate.

Nichols (ind.) could not endorse anything like the assumption of a dictatorial spirit towards a coordinate branch of the legislature.

Scott (ind.) thought there was nothing out of the way in reminding the senate of its duty.

White moved that the resolution be tabled, which carried by a vote of 46 to 40.

The following independents voted in favor of this motion: Fulton Gale, Nichols, Jones, Parker, Riley, Schelp, Waldron, Williams of Franklin, Wilson and Speaker Elder. The speaker filed an explanation of his vote to the effect that he did not believe in attempting to bulldoze the senate, and intimated that the members of that body were responsible only to their constituents.

Senate Employes Again.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Agreeable to the announcement in these columns Senator Mattes introduced a resolution this morning again directing the attention of the senate to the gross carelessness displayed in the matter of employing attaches of that body. It attracted universal attention, and when considered will show whether or not the members are disposed to assume the responsibility of paying, with the people's money, men and women, some of whom have nothing to do. The resolutions read as follows:

Whereas, It has been charged that there are twenty-two employes on the pay roll of the senate over and above the number allowed by law; and

Whereas, It has been alleged that many of the clerks within the legal number have little or nothing to do; and

Whereas, It has also been charged that many of these alleged employes have been appointed by parties to this senate unknown; therefore

Resolved, That the secretary of the senate be and is hereby directed to ascertain and report to this body not later than Monday next the number of persons now on the pay roll of the senate, the duty which they allege they perform in the behalf of the senate, the time they were appointed and the name of the person or persons at whose instance their names were placed on the pay roll of this body.

Senator Shumway, as soon as the resolutions had been read, rose to his feet and suggested that the resolutions lie over one day.

Several attempts have been made to obtain the information demanded in these resolutions, but without success. The senate has not displayed the interest in the matter that could be expected of a body committed to retrenchment and reform. It remains to be seen whether or not it will now effectually block investigation by preventing the secretary from reporting. That gentleman, it is claimed, ought to be in possession of the information which is now sought.

Three-Fifths Vote Required.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Senate file 47, by Mr. Poynter, was read a third time and put on its passage. The principal provision is as follows: When a majority of the legal voters residing upon any territory shall petition the county board of their own county and also the county to which they desire the territory to be transferred for leave to have such territory transferred to such county, it shall be the duty of the several county boards so petitioned to submit the question at the next general election in said counties. If a majority of the votes cast in the counties be cast in favor of the transfer, the transfer shall be effected, and after the secretary of state and governor have been notified the citizens of the new county shall hold an election for officers.

The bill was lost, not having received a constitutional majority, as follows:

Yeas—Beck, Collins, Egglesto, Keiper, Moore, Poynter, Randall, Sanders, Schram, Smith, Stevens, Turner, Williams, Woods.—14.

Nays—Brown, Coulter, Day, Dysart, Hill, Horn, Mattes, Michener, Shumway, Starbuck, Switzler, Thomas, Van Housen, Wilson.—14.

Absent—Christofferson, Shea.—2.

Not voting—Koontz, Warner.

The present law requires for the organization of new counties out of old ones three-fifths of the votes cast in each county.

The Bill Prohibiting Passes.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The following is the bill in full prohibiting free passes to public officials recommended for passage by the house committee of the whole:

Section 1. It is hereby declared unlawful for any railroad company to give a pass to, or carry free, any person.

Sec. 2. It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to take a pass from any railroad company or to ride free.

Sec. 3. Any of the officers or agents of any railroad company who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than $500 nor more than $1,000, or to be imprisoned in the county jail for a period of not more than three months.

Sec. 4. Any person holding a public office of profit or trust, who shall violate any of the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than $100 nor more than $500, and shall, moreover, forfeit his office.

Sec. 5. In prosecution for violations of this act, no person shall be excused from testifying against the accused, on the ground that this testimony will criminate himself; and his evidence given in any such prosecutions shall not be used against him in any civil or criminal suit against him.

Nemaha County Had the Floor.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Nemaha county had the floor today in the house during the discussion of the bill prohibiting free passes to public officials. Representative Storms (ind.) of that county made an able address declaring free passes nothing less than a wholesome system of bribery. He was followed by Church Howe, who admitted that free passes were a prolific source of political corruption, but charged that his colleague (Mr. Storms) was only a recent convert to the cause, for he himself had recently furnished him railroad courtesies and they had been accepted. [Applause by the republicans.]

Storms vehemently denied the accusation and a stormy time followed. The representatives from Nemaha became considerably excited and both occupied the floor at the same time, hurling charges at each other. Quiet was finally restored by White, who moved that the whole matter be referred to Nemaha county for settlement, a motion which was quickly seconded from all parts of the house.

Benton's Examiners.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The joint committee of the house and senate appointed to investigate the executive offices of the state has concluded its inquiry into the affairs of the auditor. It examined his books, his vouchers, and into the special accounts, the number of clerks necessary to do the work and the number now employed and paid by the state. The independents had charged that Mr. Benton had used the postage stamp appropriation of his office for campaign purposes, and the committee also inquired into that. Mr. Benton showed that the allowance, $1,500, was none too large for two years. He had to write many official letters and return a large number of school bonds. On each of these the postage was 4 cents, and he was also obliged to put on a 10-cent registry stamp. He was also expected to send out hundreds of blanks for insurance people to make reports on, and in other ways had a draft upon his stamps which made them fly pretty freely. The explanation was satisfactory and the house committee on finance, ways and means, which had previously reduced the postage appropriation restored to it the amount deducted from last year's allowance.

This afternoon the committee undertook the examination of Treasurer Hill's office, but the members were compelled to go to their respective houses and leave Tom Cook, the clerk, to look over the books.

Want Women Votes.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Senator Collins this morning posed before the ladies for a short time as the father of a bill to entitle them to the highest franchise privileges enjoyed by the male sex, that of voting for electors of president and vice-president of the United States. In its scope this bill exceeds any which has thus far been introduced into the senate. It provides that any woman who is a citizen of the United States or any woman of foreign birth who complies with the law regarding naturalization at least thirty days before the day of election and who has resided in the state six months, in the county forty days and in the precinct ten days may vote for the electors of the high offices in question.

It is due to the gallant senator that his introduction of the bill was done at the request of Mrs. Bittenbender, who holds that irrespective of any national law the legislature may pass a law of the kind mentioned. It seems that the lady mentioned had asked all the other senators to handle the bill for her and that they had all courteously begged to be excused. Senator Collins felt greatly moved over this stolidity and sent up the document with the endorsement that he had introduced it by request because no other person could be found who would do it.

Abusing the Franchise.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The senate committee on privileges and elections considered the Funck-Collins election contest and came to the conclusion that it was the toughest job they had undertaken thus far in the session. They read over two bushels of depositions from voters in Beatrice and Wymore, and the facts sworn to were borne out by the ballots which accompanied the evidence. The deposition showed that in the Second ward of Beatrice the judges and clerks were four days and nights counting the votes; that the ballots were bundled up and tied with strings; that in one of the precincts in Wymore the count was continued six days. There were other irregularities almost innumerable. The judges left the polling places and put incompetent people in charge. Some of the officers were drunk, and one of them in Wymore went crazy. Some of the ballots were put in flour sacks and others in big envelopes which had not been provided for the purpose. Some were also returned loose and then put in an envelope, which was again broken. There were seven or eight places in all in which great irregularities were discovered. The committee will accordingly report that it is unable to determine who was elected, though from a rough appearance of things and the fact that he has a certificate of election, Senator Collins is entitled to retain his seat.

Wheat vs Strickler.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—This afternoon the Omaha man, Strickler, who is practicing something or other among the independents, it seems took offense at something the senate did yesterday and made up his mind to get angry. He sat down and labored over a terrible arraignment. While engaged in the exacting task Big Lecturer Wheat of the Knights of Labor of Iowa glided by. He looked over the shoulder of the scribbling irate. The latter looked up and inquired of the onlooker what he thought of the matter.

"I think you're a —— fool," was the laconic reply as the Hercules continued in his walk.

Strickler's latest effusion was finally handed up by somebody as a resolution and laid under the table with a unanimity which showed exceeding intelligence and good sense.

The Omaha Charter.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A large delegation of Omaha citizens, headed by Mayor Cushing, appeared before the senate committee on municipal affairs tonight. A number of the amendments proposed to the city charter were discussed. The most important change made related to the city assessor, which office is created by a bill now before the senate. This bill provides that the assessor shall assess the city and county of Douglas for city, county and state purposes. In the change suggested he is to assess the city only and for city purposes exclusively. This will not affect the present assessors and the law is not to go into effect for a year, the emergency clause having been eliminated.

Legislative Notes.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The employes in the clerk's office presented Chief Clerk Eric Johnson with an elegant upholstered chair today. The presentation speech was made by First Assistant Clerk Holden. Mr. Johnson responded in a few remarks appropriate to the occasion.

Mr. Modie called for the "previous question" on a motion to lay on the table, and a laugh went around the house at his expense.

The Boss Stout claim is having a rocky time in the committee on claims. Only two members favor the bill, one of them being Mr. Felker of Douglas.

Only two independents opposed the bill abolishing free passes. They are Bredeson of Polk and Nichols of Buffalo.

Mr. Porter, the prohibition representative from Merrick, remarked today to a party holding a claim against the state of more or less merit that "50 cents per meal all around would not be considered exorbitant." It is quite likely, however, that the house will take a different view of the matter.

M'KEIGHAN TO THE RESCUE.

Nebraska's Doughty Congressman Tackles the Illinois Problem.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 27.—The joint assembly adjourned without doing anything.

Congressman-elect McKeighan of Nebraska was in the city today holding conferences with the democrats and Farmers' Mutual Benefit association men. He has, it is asserted, come to the conclusion that a farmer candidate cannot be elected senator in Illinois and would like the Farmers' Mutual Benefit association men to vote for Palmer. In an interview tonight, however, he said he was not working for Palmer and hoped the Farmers' Mutual Benefit association men would succeed in electing their compromise man. Mr. McKeighan brought a letter of introduction to Speaker Crafts from Congressman Springer, which stated that the Nebraska alliance-democratic member-elect favored Palmer.

Will Issue a Call.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—President Thurston of the Republican League of the United States will issue a call for the fourth annual convention of the league to be held in Cincinnati, O., on April 21.

Arkansas Election Reform.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 27.—The house election bill passed the senate today. So far as is possible under the state constitution it conforms to the Australian system.

Steel Workers Fatally Burned.

POTTSTOWN, Pa., Feb. 27.—An explosion of gas occurred at the Pottstown iron company's steel works this afternoon. Several tons of hot metal were thrown in a regular shower over the men, painfully burning fifteen of them. George Townlier and Charles Rutter will die.

HE DIED AS HE HAD LIVED.

Charles Bradlaugh Upheld His Doctrine of Infidelity to the Last.

THE PERSECUTED JEWS OF RUSSIA.

Some Flee for Their Lives, While Others Prefer Death to Banishment—The Foreign News Budget.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—The reports that have been in circulation that in the early stages of what proved to be his last illness, the late Charles Bradlaugh recanted doctrines of infidelity which he had so persistently championed through his life, have received a final quietus by the discovery among his papers of a long statement, written after he had been confined to his bed, and headed, "My Heresy—Its Justification." In the course of this paper the writer says that believers had sometimes been a cruelness to their dead, and he had been sometimes merciful to their living. They had used against him nearly every weapon which petty persecution could call to its aid, yet he had not been broken or swept away, but knowing as he did the difficulties that the avowal of heresy still made in his path, he reiterated that avowal. He probably had as wide and large a political ambition as any living man, and he believed that so far as his efforts went, he could at least be of some service to his fellows, but he did not disguise the fact that the heretic had but small opportunities, in view of the vast amount of prejudice that existed. He owed it, however, to those who had been associated with him and had been devoted to him for more than a quarter of a century, some of them having stood shoulder to shoulder with him for nearly forty years, that having at least once leaned over the edge of the grave, although he had not fallen into the blackness of death, he made no wavering, and that he justified his heresy as he wrote. In addition to this, Mrs. Bradlaugh Bonner, a daughter of the deceased, says she had taken precaution to procure signed testimonials from independent and impartial witnesses in attendance upon her father during four weeks prior to his death, that he was not heard to utter one word, either directly or indirectly, bearing upon religion or any religious subject.

German Papers on the Situation.

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—The Kreuz Zeitung says: "We do not question the desire of France for peace, but we recognize in recent incidents her almost incredible weakness."

The North German Gazette says: "No doubt ever existed in Germany as to the true feeling of the French people towards Germans, and the Berlin art exhibition would have been useful in showing how far the feeling would display itself. Considering the character of the agitators we do not need to resent the manifestations. The artists' decision affronts our emperor, and his mother will recoil from the affronters. But that the fact remains that even a political leadership hitherto considered strong, is unable to cope with a handful of of chauvinist meddlers, throws a valuable light on the real source of troubles which friends of European peace have so often had occasion to deplore.

Not a Case for Arbitration.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—On behalf of the defendants of the case generally known as the "baccarat scandal," the lawyers for the defense have written to Sir William Gordon Cummings' lawyers, that with a view of avoiding delay they are prepared to refer decision upon the merits of the charges and counter-charges to three gentlemen of well known positions and honor, they to be vested by mutual consent with the usual powers of a trial by law, the trial to take place in open court. Upon behalf of Sir William Gordon Cummings his lawyers have replied that they do not intend to submit their case to anybody but a jury, and that there would not be a moment's unnecessary delay in bringing the case to trial. But, as the lawyers add, they do not intend to be hurried.

The Persecuted Jews.

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—One of the Jewish families expelled from Novgorod has arrived at Wittenburg, Prussia, near the Russian border. The report that the total number of families expelled from the city of Novgorod is 617, and from the rural districts adjoining ninety-four. The family, whose name is Kurdan, gave a hideous account of the sufferings caused by the enforcement of the anti-Jewish laws. One Jewish merchant was found dead, with his wife and children also dead, in a house where they had lived many years. It was supposed that they had taken poison. In the merchant's hand was grasped a notice of banishment. The property of the exiles is being bought for a song by Russian speculators.

A Semi-Official Statement.

PARIS, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—It is semi-officially announced that M. Herbett, the French embassador at Berlin, had no information that Empress Frederick intended to visit Paris before his departure for this city. Count Von Munster, the German embassador here, it appears, some time before the coming of the German empress notified M. De Freycinet, president of the council of ministers, and M. Ribot, minister of foreign affairs, that the empress would spend a few days in Paris under the strictest incognito. The government, it is also semi-officially announced, did not attempt to influence French artists to exhibit at Berlin.

No Closer Relations Desired.

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—The Reichsanzeiger (official) today says that Chancellor Von Caprivi has notified Prince Von Hohenlohe-Schillingsfurst, governor of Alsace-Lorraine, to refrain from mitigating the passport regulations as proposed in Alsace-Lorraine in order to enable Frenchmen to cross the frontier and attend the fairs and markets in upper Alsace. The chancellor, it added, desires the governor not to extend in any way additional facilities to the inhabitants of the French frontier communes.

The German Army.

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—Chancellor Von Caprivi in the reichstag today declared for an effectual struggle against the socialist doctrines permeating the army. "We need," said he, "non-commissioned officers of an altogether different stamp from those required against a foreign foe. We have the best corps of officers in the world, and we wish also to have the best non-commissioned officers."

Created a Sensation.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—A sensation was created by the announcement that Lady Russell, wife of Earl Russell, had applied for a writ of judicial separation. The earl denies his wife's allegations. They were wedded on February 6, last. Lady Russell is a daughter of the late Sir Claude Scott. Earl Russell, who succeeded to the earldom on the death of his grandfather in 1878, is only twenty-six years old.

Hawaiian Affairs.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 27.—The United States flagship Charleston, which arrived this afternoon from Honolulu, brings word that the Hawaiian ministry has refused to resign and Queen Liliuokalani has appealed to the supreme court to oust them. Affairs otherwise are progressing quietly. The funeral of King Kalakaua took place on the 16th inst., with services according to the ritual of the Episcopal church.

The Motive Behind It.

PARIS, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—M. Ribot, minister of foreign affairs, declared to a friend today, in speaking of the visit of Empress Frederick to Paris, that he never felt able to breathe easily during the past few days until he knew the empress had retired for the night.

La Liberte says that public opinion had divined the motives behind Emperor William's coquetries with France, that when he found the triple alliance collapsing he sought to stay the progress of the Russo-Franco alliance.

She Was Greatly Pleased.

PARIS, Feb. 27.—[Special Cablegram to THE BEE.]—It is reported that Count Von Munster, the German ambassador, called at the foreign office today and stated that ex-Empress Frederick was greatly pleased and desired to thank the government for its excellent arrangements which had been due to the enjoyment of her stay in the capitol. In an interview today the artist Bouguereau said he was still inclined to exhibit his works in the Berlin exhibition unless he was the only French artist who would do so. He also said that when the ex-Empress Frederick was visiting his studio she made no mention of the exhibition.

WHY THEY QUARRELED.

Explanation of the Portsmouth Episode—English Gossips.

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LONDON, Feb. 27.—Quite a sensation was caused by the report of the quarrel between the queen and the prince of Wales at Portsmouth yesterday. It seems the prince heard, through the foreign office, alarming accounts of the position of ex-Empress Frederick in Paris. He decided to go and bring her away, and wired his sister to leave immediately, if she could not wait for him. He also telegraphed the queen. When he joined the queen at Portsmouth her majesty was greatly excited and was heard to say to him:

"What did you say! Turn my daughter out of Paris!"

The prince replied in a low tone, but the queen, visibly enraged, repeated it was impossible that any insult could be offered her daughter in Paris. She blamed the prince for his injudicious course and threatened to countermand his telegram. He protested earnestly, and finally, the queen giving in, sent another cipher telegram to ex-Empress Frederick, expressing his own and the queen's wishes.

The case of a girl of seventeen, who escaped from the Cambridge spinning house, where she had been sentenced to a week's imprisonment, has drawn attention to the monstrous anachronism of the Cambridge and Oxford university authorities' privilege of trying and imprisoning women suspected of intrigues with students. The girl in question escaped from the spinning house and raised a clamor, when she was arrested again. The local liberals took up the grievance and proved that in a number of instances women of unstained character had been arrested at will by the proctors, tried privately, no jury, no sworn evidence and no defense being allowed, convicted and sent to the spinning house. A notable instance is that of a woman who disappeared while out marketing, having been hauled before the proctors and committed to the spinning house.

Messrs. Labouchere and Fitzgerald and other members of the house of commons have determined to agitate the matter in parliament. The university authorities, not daring to face the disclosures, are willing to abandon the privilege which dates from the charter of James I.

As Justice Stephens persists in his refusal to resign, Mr. Cobb, M. P., is preparing a statement for the lord chancellor to show reason why the justice should retire. The ground taken is that he is unable to do his duty. An instance occurred at the Guildford assizes yesterday. On counsel telling a witness to go slowly, and await the judge's pen, the justice threatened to commit the counsel to jail for contempt of court, saying that it was the grossest insult that had ever been offered him, and he began summing up the case, until he was reminded that the jury had not heard the defense. The persons who are moving for the release of Mrs. Maybrick urge that the summing up of Justice Stephen's to the prejudice of the accused was owing to his unstable mental condition.

The arrest of Robertson, alias Dundonnachie, for assault on a Scotch judge has recalled his outrageous libel on the queen. During his career as a political agitator in the lower strata of London, Robertson, who had a personal feud with the duke of Athol and fought an action in the courts, lost his case, he believed, through influence from high quarters. Thereupon he gleaned around Balmoral what he could of a scandalous rumor, invented more, and then printed and privately circulated a pamphlet attributing to the queen a secret history akin to that revealed in the "Mysteries of the Court of London Under George IV." The authorities refrained from arresting the author in order to avoid sullying the spotless character of the queen with the filth, but they determined to punish him somehow. They watched and soon got a chance to prosecute him for libelling a private person. Nothing was said in court with reference to the libel on the queen, but the bench knew of it, and the accused was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. He has since become half crazed, and is likely to end his days in an asylum.

An Important Ruling.

LANSING, Mich., Feb., 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—In denying the application for a mandamus in the case of Schmeddings vs Clerk May of Wayne county this morning, the supreme court established the right of county clerks to suppress the files in legal cases at their discretion. The court says that after trial records are undoubtedly public property, but this publicity does not include papers that are necessary to the framing of an issue in cases to be tried.

The Poles Must Come Down.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—At a meeting of the board of aldermen today a resolution was adopted, upon the recommendation of the mayor, authorizing the latter, after June 1, to direct the commissioner of public works to remove all poles carrying wires for electric service of any kind within the district bounded by Third avenue, Eighth avenue, Eighth and Fifty-ninth streets, including boundary streets and avenues.

A Drove of Deer.

CHAMBERLAIN, S. D., Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The largest herd of deer, about fifty, seen in this vicinity since 1880, were discovered by a party of Sioux Indians this morning a few miles west on the Sioux reservation. The Indians at once started in pursuit and are still on the trail of the deer, having killed seventeen when heard from this afternoon.

A Poor Faster.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—A. B. Gump, who started out on February 1 to fast thirty days for $1,000 gave up this afternoon after completing twenty-six days. He lost during this time twenty-three pounds in weight. He used thirty-eight pints of water during his fast, but took no other stimulants.

Eloped with the Hired Man.

JANESVILLE, Wis., Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Rev. S. P. Wilder of this city last night married W. P. Black and Miss Vilma Snyder, an eloping couple from Moline, Ill. The bride is the daughter of a wealthy Moline hotel man, and is worth $20,000 in her own name. The groom was employed around her father's house.

DUN'S REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Very Little Change is Reported in the Condition of Trade.

DULLNESS IN THE SOUTH AND NORTHWEST

Signs of a Steady Approach to a Stringency of the Money Market—Business in the East is Very Irregular.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: There is not much change in the condition of trade, but there is a little more dullness at the south and in the northwest, with a little more stringency in the money markets and complaints about slowness of collections. In general business is still hesitating. The larger cause is undoubtedly the partial loss of crops, which has left many farmers without means for the usual purchases. At the same time the collapse of the real estate boom, which so widely inflated prices throughout the west and south, has affected business more than has yet been realized. To this influence is added at the south the extremely low price of cotton which affects farmers the more because so many of them tried, by holding back their crop, to force a higher level of prices. Collections are slow at St. Louis, Denver and Omaha. Easy and prompt in dry goods, but not so prompt as before in clothing and boots and shoes at Chicago; about an average at Kansas City and satisfactory at St. Paul, but somewhat slow at Detroit, while at Cleveland much good commercial paper is renewed and quite a proportion of country merchants are sending in notes instead of money. At Philadelphia there are tolerably good collections in clothing and dry goods, but poor in jewelry and extremely poor in paints. The money markets, though still generally called easy, gives signs of a steady approach to stringency, and at Omaha money is quite close; at Milwaukee in active demand, and at Cleveland rather stringent, much being locked up in iron ore. At Boston some scarcity of loanable funds is noticed and rates are firm and higher. Southern reports generally note a fair demand, but no improvement in trade, while northwestern reports are on the whole less favorable than before as to the state of business. At Denver business is better, and at Milwaukee. No change is noticed at Kansas City and St. Paul, but it is only fair at Omaha; not so strong at St. Louis; quiet at Cincinnati, except that the carriage trade is active, and only fair in manufactures at Detroit. At Cleveland trade is fairly good, but brisk in hardware and manufactured iron, and the strike strengthens pig and manufactured iron at Pittsburg. At Chicago there is some decrease in receipts of nearly all products except cured meats and wool, and it is noted that the warm weather and low prices keep down shipments of boots and shoes to the country. Business at eastern cities has been irregular. The wool trade is strengthened by comparative scarcity and prices of some grades are higher. The knit goods manufacture has apparently gained most. Trade in cottons is dull. In rubber goods trade is unsettled. The glass trade is fair at Pittsburg, and light in Philadelphia. In general, at eastern cities, a marked decrease in building has caused dullness in the markets for all materials. This is in part the cause for recent slacking in the iron business, though the coke strike has now produced more inquiry for pig iron, and for nearly all products of iron and steel. Steel rails do not move, because buyers doubt the permanency of the combination. Coal is dull. No change is observed in the minor details. There has been an advance in the average prices of all commodities, amounting to half of 1 per cent for the week, but it has been almost exclusively in products of which crops were short. The price of meat has not advanced, western receipts continuing heavy white exports are light, but corn has risen 2¼ cents and oats 1½ cents. A speculative advance of over half a cent is also seen in coffee. The exports of merchandise from New York for the past four weeks have been 15 per cent less than for the same four weeks last year, and imports also decrease about 10 per cent.

The business failures during the last seven days number 290 as against 267 last week. For the corresponding week of last year the failures were 301.

Speaks for Senator Kyle.

HURON, S. D., Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The Dakota Ruralist, whose editor is more intimately associated with Senator-elect Kyle than any newspaper man in the state and whose paper is the official organ of the farmers' alliance and independent party of the state, will say editorially tomorrow: "Senator Kyle will be in his seat in the senate of the United States on Wednesday, March 19. We claim for him the honor of being the first independent party member of congress. He is a representative of the independents, a party standing on its own platform. If necessary to emphasize this point Mr. Kyle will ask for a seat in the center of the senate chamber. On non-essentials he will follow his convictions. The party th[...] comes nearest to those convictions will g[...] his help till such time as the people hav[...] a chance to send a proper representation. Mr. Kyle believes that plenty of help is coming his way. The attitude of both the republicans and democrats, he thinks, will give the independents all the states west of Pennsylvania."

Dempsey and McCaffrey May Fight.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—It is announced that Gus Tuthill, Jack Dempsey's backer, would match the "Nonpareil" against Dominick McCaffrey for either $5,000 or $10,000 in a finish fight at catch weights. The proposed match grows out of a dispute had by Tuthill with McCaffrey reflecting the merits of Dempsey as a fighter.

A Big Mining Deal.

ASPEN, Colo., Feb. 27.—Negotiations are under way for the purchase of all the mining properties in the lower part of Aspen mountain by a syndicate of English capitalists. The price is stated to be in the neighborhood of $17,000,000.

A Young Husband Suicides.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—Three weeks ago George Buchmann married Josefa Kolakowski. Three days afterward they quarreled and she left him, and this morning he hung himself to a rafter.

Be Sure

If you have made up your mind to buy Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to take any other. A Boston lady, whose example is worthy imitation, tells her experience below:

"In one store where I went to buy Hood's Sarsaparilla the clerk tried to induce me buy their own instead of Hood's; he told me their's would last longer; that I might take it on ten

To Get

days' trial; that if I did not like it I need not pay anything, etc. But he could not prevail on me to change. I told him I had taken Hood's Sarsaparilla, knew what it was, was satisfied with it, and did not want any other. When I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla I was feeling real miserable with dyspepsia, and so weak that at times I could hardly

Hood's

stand. I looked like a person in consumption. Hood's Sarsaparilla did me so much good that I wonder at myself sometimes, and my friends frequently speak of it." MRS. ELLA A. GOFF, 61 Terrace Street, Boston.

Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. $1; six for $5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar