clearly set in in favor of the measure. Smith asserted that it was a common practice for the creamery men to purchase inferior butter from the commission men, and, after working it over, palm it off on the public as pure creamery butter. Noyes quoted from a letter from the Waterloo creamery, showing that last year that institution sold $17,000 worth of its best product to the oleomargarine factory at South Omaha.

At noon the committee rose for recess and at 2 o'clock resumed consideration of the bill. At 3 o'clock the committee rose with the recommendation that the bill be passed.

On the motion to adopt the report of the committee yeas and nays were demanded. Senators Noyes and Smith of Douglas county were the only senators who voted against the motion to adopt the report of the committee of the whole.

WILL KEEP ALL THE EMPLOYES.

The senate then engaged in a final bout over the proposition to reduce the number of employes to the statutory requirements. The question had been made a special order for this afternoon, and the special committee to which the matter had been referred last week presented a report. McKesson raised the point of order that the committee had no official existence, and, therefore, had no right to make a report. He based his point of objection on the ground that several weeks ago the committee had been appointed to investigate the question, and had at that time presented a report. By its action in adopting the report the senate had ended the life of the committee. The lieutenant governor held the point of objection well taken. McKesson then moved that a committee be appointed and instructed to reduce the number of employes to the statutory limits. To this Tefft offered an amendment to the effect that the old committee be reappointed and instructed to report at once. After a hot fight the amendment was adopted. The committee thus reappointed again presented a report declaring that the employes already on the rolls were absolutely necessary for the transaction of the business of the senate.

Akers presented a minority report, cutting off twenty-two employes. After another hot contest, lasting for an hour, the majority report was adopted.

The senate then went into committee of the whole on Akers' irrigation bill, and after reading and accepting the first twenty-four sections, adjourned.

NEBRASKA CITY SCORCHED.

Three Business Buildings Burned at an Early Hour This Morning.

NEBRASKA CITY, Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—A disastrous fire broke out in the grocery store of C. B. Chapman at 4:30 this morning, resulting in the destruction of three buildings and their contents, and great damage to several others. At one time it looked as though the entire block was doomed, but hard work confined the fire to the three buildings. The heat was so intense the plate windows on the opposite side of the street were cracked, and the building badly scorched. The buildings destroyed are: Chapman's grocery, Press office and Klepser's harness shop. The Western Union Telegraph office was badly damaged. The losses are as follows: E. F. Warren, owner of building occupied by the Press and Chapman, $5,000; insurance, $3,000.

Press loss, $5,000; insurance, $3,000.

Chapman & Son, loss, 2,500; insurance, $1,000.

A. J. Klepser, on building, $2,500, on stock, $1,100; insurance, $1,500.

Damage to the other buildings will amount to fully $2,500, which are fully insured.

The Press has secured temporary quarters at the News office, and will not miss an issue. The only thing saved from the flames was this morning's issue of that paper.

BEATRICE, Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—The fire department was called out yesterday evening, again in the night about 1 o'clock and again at 11 o'clock this morning. The first fire was at the residence of T. C. Hunter on South Lasalle street, damaging the same $150. The second was a vacant house in West Beatrice, damage $300. The blaze this morning was on the premises of Carl Elmore, totally destroying the extension frame buildings upon as a chicken hatchery. The fire is supposed to have caught from a small stove in one of the compartments of the buildings. The loss is between $300 and $500 and is well covered by insurance.

EDDYVILLE, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—Blanchard & Bilmyer's general merchandise store and implement buildings, and the combined residence and feed store of A. A. Stuckey, were entirely destroyed by fire at 2 a. m. The origin of the fire is unknown, supposed to have started from a defective flue in the store. None of the stock of the former was saved; value of stock, $3,500; insurance, $2,900. Mr. Stuckey carried no insurance, but saved all his personal effects.

Affairs at Ashland.

ASHLAND, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—Within the last week five weddings have occurred here, the last being at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Marshall, yesterday, when their daughter Alice was married to Henry Biggerstaff. The couple will take up housekeeping on a farm west of the city.

The marriage of Mr. Clem Sarpening to Miss Ida Christianson occurred yesterday at Wahoo. Both are from near Ashland.

The work of filling the Swift and company ice house at this place is almost completed and they will have at least 100,000 tons of ice put up at a cost of about $11,000.

Mrs. R. B. Aught arrived in this city yesterday to visit relatives for the winter months, her home being in Crow Agency, Mont.

Stanly J. Pickett, who has been handling apples at this point, shipped the entire stock on hand to Lincoln yesterday.

Rev. J. C. McConnell of the First Baptist church, left today for a charge in eastern Iowa.

Killed Two Hundred Rabbits.

VERDON, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—The annual rabbit hunt at Verdon occurred last week. George Sloan and Frank Veach were captains of the two sides. One hundred and ninety-two rabbits were taken, and Frank Veach's party were the winners.

An oyster supper was given Wednesday night at the residence of F. D. Howe, for the benefit of the Congregational Sunday school.

Francis Barnard, a 14-year-old boy, met with a very serious accident last night while riding a horse. The animal slipped and fell, catching the boy's leg and pinning him to the ground. The boy struck on the back of his head and is still unconscious, but his symptoms are better than last evening, so that the doctors have some hopes of his recovery.

Celebrated Christian Endeavor Day.

EXETER, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Congregational church celebrated the fourteenth anniversary of the organization in a royal way Sunday, commencing with a sunrise prayer meeting at 7:30, which thirty-two attended, regardless of the snow storm that was raging and the mercury standing at 7 degrees below zero. This proved to be a splendid meeting. The committees nearly all reported at this meeting. This was followed with a Christian Endeavor sermon at 11 o'clock by Rev. C. H. Huestis and at 7 in the evening by an Endeavor day exercise by the society, which took the place of the regular evening service. The paper on the "History of the Exeter Society" by C. C. Smith and the short talk by Rev. Huestis were excellent.

York County Pioneer Dead.

YORK, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—After an extended illness, Mrs. David Graham died of dropsy yesterday, at the age of 74. Mrs. Graham was one of York's pioneer settlers, and her death was not unexpected. The funeral services will be held at the Baptist church today, conducted by Rev. Fellman.

At the United Bretheren college on Tuesday evening, Colonel B. Crabb will adress the students of that institution on the subject of "Prison Life in Dixie." The colonel is an old-time resident of York county, and a well known orator. As is usual at the colonel's addresses, a good outside attendance is expected.

Demise of Robert Clegg.

FALLS CITY, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—Robert Clegg died at his home in this city of heart trouble, aged 50 years. Mr. Clegg was born in Canada and came to this city twenty-four years ago, and worked at his trade as shoemaker for two years and then took a contract for boarding prisoners in the county jail. He was elected mayor of the city on the democratic ticket in 1878 and served two years, and has taken a prominent part in every election since. The same year he was elected mayor he bought the drug store conducted by T. C. Shelly and was proprietor of it when he died. The funeral will take place from the Catholic church Friday. Mr. Clegg leaves a wife and three children.

The windmill belonging to John Horner caught fire this morning. Horner was thawing out the pipe yesterday and had forgotten to extinguish the lamp before going to bed. His large barn with twelve horses and six buggies near the windmill was scorched. The windmill was fully insured.

Fred Sloan of White Cloud, Kan., came up yesterday to visit his aunt, Mrs. W. M. Musselman.

OBJECT TO THE LAW.

Buffalo County Destitute People Will Not Make Affidavits that They Are Paupers.

KEARNEY, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—While the feeling against Secretary Ludden, which has been so strong here for a while, has died down by reason of several cars of coal, provisions and clothing having been received and distributed in various parts of the county, there is considerable criticism being expressed among the farming element over the new law which provides how relief can be procured. Those who are kicking hardest say that the law has the effect of keeping those who are most entitled to help from receiving it, and those who are chronic relief seekers are getting it all, as a man must make affidavit that he is a pauper before he can get aid, and many deserving ones will not do that.

A day or two ago George Crawford, son of James Crawford, was riding horseback. His horse fell and the boy's leg was broken in three places.

After an illness of only three days, Mrs. Beck, wife of J. H. Beck, died yesterday. She leaves two small boys, 2 and 6 years of age, to mourn her loss.

Dr. M. A. Hoover, whose wife died a week ago, has taken his daughter, Bessie, to Indianapolis to make her home with her grandparents. The doctor will continue his practice here.

Mrs. Brady, wife of Mayor Ph Brady, has gone to Los Angeles, Cal., to spend the winter, and has taken the children with her.

Dr. Deitrich of Leipsic, Germany, one of the victims of the ill-fated steamer Elbe, was well known here, and had a plan for building an infirmary at this place. He had been home to perfect the necessary arrangements and was on his return when lost.

The committee having in charge the matter of securing the soldiers' reunion here is working hard and meeting with success.

The machinery for the new bicycle factory has been shipped and is now on its way here. It is expected to be all here this week.

SEED GRAIN LAW OBJECTIONABLE.

Custer County Farmers Think it Entails Hardships on the Poor.

BROKEN BOW, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—A mass meeting was held in this city this afternoon to consider the question of voting county bonds under the new law for the purpose of securing seed and feed. At least 250 were in attendance and the discussion was quite animated. They severely criticised the provisions in the law which provide for the farmers paying for the seed at the rate of 10 per cent within one year and the bonds running for five to ten years at 7 per cent interest. This was regarded as a very expensive experiment. The majority of those present were not such as the law contemplates benefiting, as they are able to purchase their own seed. They were generally of the opinion that interest on a $50,000 bond for five years would cost the county more than it would lose by letting the ground lie idle for the season. The law would have been much more acceptable to the majority in the county had it been passed as first introduced, by which the seed and feed purchased would have been a lien on the farm sown.

The convention decided to not petition for an election to vote bonds, but to leave the question with the masses to take such action as they might deem best. The general opinion is that an election will be called at any rate, notwithstanding the fact that the law is not satisfactory. It is very doubtful that the bonds will carry.

REUNION PARTY CONFERENCE.

Only Thirteen Delegates Attend the Custer County Meeting at Broken Bow.

BROKEN BOW, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—The conference of the reunion party today, which had been so widely advertised throughout the country the past two weeks, and which was calculated to create a great political revolution, was a very tame affair. The meeting was called at 11 o'clock today. As there were but thirteen present and only two of them in favor of the move it was decided to adjourn the conference until after the mass meeting called to meet at 2 o'clock to discuss the question of bonding the county for seed and feed under the new law. At the conclusion of that meeting the conference was called to order. An organization was effected by electing J. L. H. Knight chairman and J. R. Dean secretary. Knight read several letters from parties of different states who favored the move. The session opened with about fifty spectators, but the crowd dwindled down to less than a dozen, when they decided to adjourn to the second Tuesday in March.

Newspaper Change at Pender.

PENDER, Neb. Feb. 5.—(Special.)—The newspaper plant of the Thurston Republic, founded by H. S. Swenson and published by him for the last five years, has been leased by H. A. Wells and A. T. Fried. Wells is a practical printer, and with Mr. Fried's editorial assistance it is intended to make one of the best weeklies in Nebraska. Its politics will remain republican.

An adjourned term of the district court convened at Weiser's opera house yesterday at 10 o'clock with Judge W. F. Harris on the bench.

Opposed to Bogus Butter Traffic.

BEATRICE, Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—Business men and farmers of Gage county are taking a lively interest in the passage by the legislature of a bill regulating privileges of manufacturers of oleomargarine. A numerously signed petition has been forwarded to the Gage county delegation and today a telegram was sent by a number of business men to Senator Graham, urging him to use his vote and influence for the passage of the bill now pending in the senate.

Married the Man of Her Heart.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—Arthur Stradley and Gertrude Mick of Salt Creek precinct were married Sunday night and are here spending a few days until surprise at home subsides. Miss Mick accompanied to church Sunday night the young man of her parents' choice, and then slipped out and married the young man who had won her heart, but not her father's.

Caused Trouble in the Village Board.

BELLEVUE, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—The village board passed an ordinance Monday evening vacating the streets and alleys at the north end of the village and appointed appraisers to assess the damage caused by this proceeding. On account of this action William F. Martin resigned and John Atkinson, sr., was appointed in his place.

Collided at the Grand Island Crossing.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—A B. & M. freight and Union Pacific switch engine collided at the crossing of the two tracks this morning. Both engines were derailed and damaged. Union Pacific passenger train No. 6 was delayed four hours and the fast mail several hours.

Grain Business Changing Hands.

HASTINGS, Neb., Feb. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—H. M. Oliver and R. D. Lamson, grain dealers, doing business under the firm name of Oliver & Lamson, filed a bill of sale to A. L. Clarke for $2,000; also another from H. M. Oliver to C. G. Lane for the elevator at Hansen.

State Notes.

The Sherman county Sunday schools will hold a convention at Loup City February 17.

The second annual educational convention of Butler county will be held at David City March 8 and 9.

The pupils of the Tilden schools will give an entertainment on Washington's birthday for the benefit of the poor.

Fire destroyed the residence of George Marti, a Jefferson county farmer, and all his household goods were burned.

Miss Watts, a teacher in a Lancaster county district school, attempted to punish a 15-year-old pupil named Barrow for disobedience when the boy picked up a pail and struck the teacher over the head, cutting a long gash in her forehead. Miss Watts, however, came out on top, and pluckily continued to teach in spite of her injuries. Barrow was expelled, but was not otherwise punished.

Because he had lost $300 in the broken Bank of Trenton John M. Bulher, a Hitchcock county farmer, ended his life by shooting himself through the heart. He was a bachelor and in good circumstances.

Harry Hill, the murderer of Matt Akeson in Cass county, has only a few more days to live, for he will be executed at Plattsmouth March 1 unless the governor interferes. Sheriff Elkenbary is already preparing for the hanging. The scaffold will be constructed next to the north wall of the jail, the whole being inclosed in a fence some eighteen feet high. The floor of the scaffold will be some ten feet high and an allowance of six feet will be made for the drop. Active work on the scaffold and its enclosure will not be commenced until the Monday preceding the execution, when a force of carpenters will be summoned and the work put through with a rush. The proximity of the jail to the buildings on Main street will not prevent outsiders from witnessing the execution, as the tops of the buildings will be considerably higher than the enclosure.

Hayden Bros.

Methods have certainly revolutionized the retail business of Omaha. If their competitors will screw their courage to the sticking point and imitate their efforts to keep abreast of the most advanced ways of modern merchandising, they will surely spread the fame of Omaha and make this a city of prosperous, happy homes.

There is no place on earth where a little money will pile up goods as it will at the big store, and no people strive harder to please customers in every particular. The big store is always back of every article sold and always guarantees satisfaction or your money.

Hayden Bros. never buy a bankrupt stock at any price unless the quality, the styles and the price are all combined to make the selling qualities worthy the highest recommendation.

The M. H. Cook clothing company started last September with a splendid stock of gentlemen's clothing and fine furnishing goods, but their prices, like the times, were out of joint, and now the secret is out. Every one knows what is said about the creditor. Hayden Bros.' purchased the goods at their own valuation, and have cut the Cook clothing company right in two, and will sell at exactly one-half their price.

This enormous stock added to the regular clothing department of the big store makes the biggest stock of the kind ever seen in this city, and if the sale does not surpass anything ever attempted in Omaha it will be very strange.

Everybody should visit the big store, corner 16th and Dodge and see what pluck, energy and progressive enterprise will do.

NO ONE INCULPATED.

Dora Freiburg's Death Yesterday the Result of Her Own Act.

The real name of the girl who died at May Coleman's place yesterday morning was Dora Freiburg.

Dora was an inmate in Nellie King's house on Douglas street, near Ninth, and about 11 o'clock Monday night she and a man named Charles Hutchinson, agent for a Chicago liquor house, started out from King's house to visit other places on the "row." They had been drinking freely, and in their wanderings went into May Coleman's. More liquor was consumed, and Dora told Georgia Patton, with whom she was acquainted, that she was sick and had been under a doctor's care for some time, and that during the afternoon and evening she had taken twelve small pills of morphine.

Dora and Georgia went up to the latter's room and while there Georgia claims that Dora talked in a despondent strain for some time, saying that she was fast breaking down in health and was in financial straits. She also said that some morning they would wake up and find her dead in her room with the gas turned on. Miss Patton says that she advised the girl to do nothing rash, and then Dora asked her if she had some morphine and a syringe for a hypodermic injection. She said that she gave the girl a half-grain tablet of the drug, which was divided in half and dissolved in water. Dora then took the syringe and made the injection herself. In less than an hour she became very sick and had to be carried to a room. Dr. Chadwick was summoned, but the girl was past aid and died about 1:30 a. m. The coroner was notified and detectives were sent to investigate the case. They found Georgia Patton hysterically weeping at the bedside of Dora, and from the inmates of the house learned that it was she who gave the dead girl the fatal injection. Georgia was taken to the police station and locked up in the matron's department. She is alleged to have told the landlady of the house that it was she who gave Dora the injection, and that the girl asked her for it. Yesterday she denied all this, and after an investigation Coroner Maul ordered her release, as there was nothing to show that she had given the girl the dose with any intention of causing her death.

Madge Lamont, an inmate of Nellie King's and confidential friend of Dora, said that the girl left there late last night to go "visiting" at the other houses with a male acquaintance. She was lively and seemed in the best of spirits, and had never at any time seemed despondent enough to take her own life. Madge was sure that Dora met with an accidental death, and Dr. Chadwick, the attending physician, was of the same belief.

At an inquest yesterday afternoon it was decided that Dora administered the drug herself; whether with suicidal intent or not was not determined.

Dora Freiburg was the 18-year-old daughter of J. O. Freiburg, a merchant tailor doing business on East Court avenue, Des Moines, Ia. She was a handsome blonde and left home about a year and a half ago. It is said that her downfall was occasioned by the wiles of a Hawkeye statesman, who was in the twenty-fifth general assembly, and after her disgrace became known she determined upon leaving home and leading an immoral life. She then came to Omaha.

The girl's parents separated shortly before she left home, and, in accordance with advices received from both father and mother yesterday, the remains will be buried here.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

A. W. Sidney, Hannibal, Mo., is registered at the Barker.

Jack Talbot is registered at the Barker from Denver, Colo.

Contracting Agent H. B. Kooser of the Missouri Pacific left for Kansas City last evening.

Charles Meth and H. L. Fowler have returned from Chicago and are domiciled at the Barker.

Thomas Swan, Gordon, Wyo., and S. A. Guthrie, Douglas, Wyo., wealthy stockmen of Wyoming, are at the Barker.

Miss Hertha Tewelis of Milwaukee is in the city, the guest of Miss Hattie Oberfelder. Miss Tewelis will remain in the city for several days.

At the Mercer: F. C. Wheeler, Chicago; Charles W. Shivel, St. Louis; G. Gallaher, Kansas City; V. C. Shickley, Geneva; J. M. Edmiston, Lincoln; J. C. Dool, Aledo, Ill.; E. C. Brainard and wife, Ogden, Utah; George C. Weaver, New York; Louis Wachter, Herman; J. A. McLaughlin, Craig.

Nebraskans at the Hotels.

At the Dellone—F. J. Hrubesky, Howells; F. E. White, Creighton.

At the Millard—A. Barton, D. B. Jenckes, Chadron; C. E. Adams, Superior.

At the Arcade—C. W. Kelly, Laurel; James Watson, Hebron; Mons Johnson, Fremont; J. S. Wisherd, Clarkson; C. W. Grinnell, Waverly; C. Johnson, Geneva.

At the Merchants—A. R. Nisbet, Fullerton; H. E. Owen, Norfolk; J. M. Peterson, E. J. Hall, Grand Island; G. P. Sheerley, F. M. Day, David City; L. E. Jones, St. James; Anthony Herschman, Henry Wubber, Hartington; John Hirschman, Branch; J. W. Davidson, Fremont.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

On Saturday the ladies of Immanuel Baptist church will serve dinner at the Young Men's Christian association building. The proceeds go to the church improvement fund.

Mrs. J. A. Linehan, wife of Jerry Linehan, who is employed in the master mechanic's office of the Union Pacific railway shops, and who was residing at 3041 California street, died yesterday. Mrs. Linehan was 28 years of age, and had resided in Omaha for twenty-six years.

Chief Seavey has received a photograph and description of William McGuire, alias William Morse, the notorious safe sneak who committed several robberies in Dallas, Tex., about a year ago. Morse was in Omaha last summer, but went on east, and a few weeks ago was captured while trying to break the safe of a big milling company in Cincinnati.

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Finance Committee's Report Recommending Forty-Three Mills Levy Adopted.

NOT WITHOUT MUCH DISCUSSION

Considerable Plain Talk on the Manner in Which Omaha Spends Its Money—Radical Reforms Advised — Twenty-Four Ounce Bread Ordinance Killed.

Eighteen members of the city council, animated by more or less distinct ideas of retrenchment and municipal reformation, met in regular session last night. It was the first meeting in February, at which the charter provides that the annual levy must be made, and the debate lasted until after midnight. It soon developed that there was more than one opinion as to the extent to which the policy of retrenchment should be carried. The minority demanded the scalps of seventeen salaried employes in the city hall and a general reduction of 25 per cent in salaries, while the finance committee, to which the subject of retrenchment had previously been referred, contented itself with urging economy in expenditure for lighting, hydrant rental and grading, reserving the matter of salaries for future consideration. The difference of opinion caused several rather heated exchanges of personalities, but eventually apologies were tendered and accepted and the municipal thunder storm left no traces of its passage.

Before the report of the finance committee was reached, the minority resolution was submitted by Howell, Burkley and Mercer. It provided that the city should dispense with the following employes: One clerk in the city clerk's office at not less than $100 per month; two in the city treasurer's office at $175; one in the comptroller's office at $100; one in the Board of Public Work's office at $75; the sidewalk inspector, $90; assistant plumbing inspector, $125; four sanitary inspectors at $60 each; two janitors, $50 each; one elevator conductor, $50; assistant commissioner of health, $100; building inspector's clerk, $100; building examiner, $104. The resolution also provided that all other salaries except such as were protected by the charter should be reduced 25 per cent unless such a reduction should bring them below $50, and that the council should go into committee of the whole to consider the suggestion.

HOWELL WAS EMPHATIC.

Howell supported the resolution by declaring that the minority had been compelled to declare itself. It had not been consulted in making up the levy and he wanted to go on record as saying that he would never vote for a levy ordinance until retrenchment had been accomplished along the lines suggested by the resolution.

Jacobsen urged that since the subject had previously been submitted to the finance committee the resolution should follow it. Mercer and Howell insisted that the resolution should be considered in committee of the whole without reference, and after considerable discussion the matter was compromised by reading the reports of the finance committee, which the committee of the whole proceeded to consider in connection with the resolution. The finance committee submitted the following report relative to the levy for 1895:

RECOMMEND 44 MILLS.

In reporting the annual levy ordinance, your finance committee begs to say that very careful personal attention has been given every board and department of the city, including the school board. Considering the circumstances, our task has not been an easy one. We could not ignore (and we had no right to) the unanimous demand of the people that the rate of taxation be kept within bounds, and, if possible, reduced. We have never lost sight of this imperative demand. By investigation we found these figures from last year confronting us:

DEFICIENCIES FROM 1894.

School board	$ 70,000
Street repair bill, 1891	15,211
Street repair bill, 1894 (about)	9,000
Park judgment	12,000
Fire engines and hose, unpaid	9,000
Street lighting	21,807
Total	$135,018

This represents 7 mills. Had the above been provided for last year, assuming that the bills are correct, we could have recommended a material reduction in the annual levy. The estimates submitted by the mayor, from all boards and departments, including the school board, called for a total of 55 mills for 1895.

Your committee has invited members of the school board, library board, park board, fire and police commission and heads of departments to a conference where, in every case, all items of expenditure were reduced to the lowest possible limit, except salaries, which are to be made a subject of further consideration. The levy for general fund is made with the understanding that all departments will practice the most rigid economy, and that this fund shall not be called upon to pay for paving, grading, street work nor extra hydrants, street lighting, etc. The levy in detail recommended in the ordinance herewith is as follows:

General	9¾
Maintaining curbing and guttering	1
Sewer	½
Police	3
Fire	5
Sinking fund	8½
Water	3
Library	¾
Schools	7¾
Park	1
Judgment	1
Board of Health	½
Street lighting	3
Total, in mills	44

A total for city purposes, outside of public schools, of 37¼ mills.

In this connection it should be remembered, also, that the school board has been given 4 mills additional to the levy of 1894 on account of the falling off in license receipts, and the fire department also anticipates 1 or 2 mills increase. These two items of increase, for which this council is not responsible, deducted from last year's levy of 44 mills, show that city taxes proper, including that for school purposes, under ordinary circumstances, would have been decreased 5¾ mills, or over 13 per cent in the levy ordinance for 1895.

In adopting this report let it be understood that there must be strict economy in each department, and every official in any way responsible for the disbursement of public funds must keep within the appropriation or allotment. Unless there are some legal barriers this report will be followed by an allotment, by resolution or ordinance, "limiting and restricting the disbursement" of funds by every board and all departments.

Your committee is not unfriendly to the large capitalized interests which are furnishing the city with water, gas, gasoline, electric lights, telephones, etc., and which have received valuable franchises from the people, without any consideration. But the rights of the general public are not being properly protected, and it is only fair that the business of the city should be put on a more equitable basis with these corporations. Quite recently concessions have been made by the gas company and the electric light company, but nothing has been done by the others, so far as we are advised.

A few instances will illustrate. The Omaha & Council Bluffs Street railway, we understand, pays $8,000 per year to the Omaha Street Railway company for the privilege of running its trains around the loop. If this privilege is worth that amount for the use of its rails, it would seem that the city should receive something for the use of the streets. But it gets nothing—not even taxes on their cars. The west end of the bridge pays a nominal tax.

The American Water Works company will eventually own a large slice of the city, unless some method is found to check its advances. Annual rentals for fire hydrants paid out of the city treasury have now reached the enormous sum of 1 per cent on $2,100,000, and it is increasing every year. The investment of the city in new fire hydrants charged during 1894 represents 4 per cent on $110,000. Just what is being collected from private consumers we do not know.

For a youngster, the gasoline contract is a hustler, and is making a record that entitles it to second place in the affections of the city treasury. During 1894 the city paid, in rentals for gasoline lamps, interest on a capitalization of $400,000, and the increase in gasoline bills was 33 per cent over 1892.

The city pays interest on a capital of $425,000 for its gas, and interest on about $60,000 for its telephones. The gas company has recently paid about $6,000 into the city treasury under its new contract, and the telephone company would be making a good bargain if it furnished the city with all its telephones without charge.

It is needless to say that the taxes paid by nearly all these large corporations are only nominal. But to pay the annual charges for the services rendered the city as above mentioned, the people pay 4 per cent interest on $3,750,000 every year. Of the tax levy this large amount represents 7½ mills, or about one-sixth of the taxes paid for all purposes.

The few instances given will indicate the necessity for a growing tax levy, and will possibly show why taxes in Omaha are unequally distributed. But the question of assessments is not before us at this time, and is referred to in the hope that a remedy may be found whereby the annual levy may be reduced, and a more just and equitable distribution of burdens be made.

SOME PLAIN FACTS.

The ideas of the committee relative to retrenchment were presented as follows:

Your committee, having had under consideration a resolution adopted by the council January 8, looking towards retrenchment in city expenses, begs leave to submit the following partial report, and to ask further time to investigate that branch of the resolution touching reduction of salaries. We have devoted as much consideration as possible to this subject, and we find a general willingness on the part of all city officials to economize in every department. It has been the desire of the finance committee, in its recommendations, not to cripple any of the city departments, and to reduce compensation where it was too high and cut off unnecessary expenses. If an annual appropriation ordinance can be passed which would take effect and be binding upon officials chosen at a subsequent election it would be less difficult to establish salaries on a lower basis. We are met, in the very first stage of our work, with these obstacles:

Some of the various boards evidently are of the opinion that it is the duty of the city council to practically place a certain sum of money, annually, to their credit, and that the city council has nothing to do with its expenditure. The city attorney seems inclined to this view. If he is legally correct the people who pay the taxes can expect no relief until they go to the legislature and amend the charter so as to bring the expenditures of all boards under the direct control of their representatives in the city council. There is no disposition, so far as we are aware, on the part of the city council to interfere in any way with the administration and details of the various boards and departments; but we believe it is the duty of the city council to restrict and limit the expenditure of public funds. Your committee is of the opinion that the city council should insist upon this position, and, should subsequent events prove that it is not correct, a direct appeal should be made to the legislature, in the interests of the people and taxpayers, to so amend the charter that all expenditures can be limited and restricted by the city council.

Under the provisions of the charter and the opinion of the city attorney the salaries of all employes appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council cannot be increased or decreased during their term. Salaries fixed by the charter cannot be changed by the city council.

If your committee can find no means of overcoming these obstacles we will say, frankly, that we do not believe it will be in the interest of good city government to make a scapegoat of the few city clerks and others who do not have such friendly protection. All should be treated alike. The disposition, we believe, among all subordinate officers and clerks is to cheerfully accept a fair reduction for their services. After we have looked further into this branch of the subject we will submit an additional report.

In our researches among the archives of the city, we find that the irrepressible councilman with a resolution is a very expensive luxury to the city. It is an easy matter to add to the expense of the city by resolution, but it is quite another matter to rescind such resolutions, or check the expenditures when once made.

The taxpayers have an erroneous impression in regard to the powers of their representatives in the city council. They are decidedly limited. While it is true that the council makes the annual tax levy, it is equally true that the power to regulate the salaries of the employes of the city, which, in our judgment, should be in the hands of the people (through their representatives in the council), has been made practically nugatory by charter provisions, if the opinion of the city attorney is correct. The total tax levy for 1894 was 44 mills. Of this amount the people will doubtless be surprised to learn that their representatives in the city council have direct control, by ordinance, of salaries in the aggregate amounting to less than $60,000, or between 2 and 3 mills of the total levy. If it is true that some of the boards are growing up in the belief that they are independent of the council and not accountable to that body, and simply come to the council for the annual tax levy, and have the right to regulate expenditures as they deem best, we are of the opinion that it is time that the people consider whether or not they should take steps to have such power curtailed and the responsibility for all expenditures placed upon those whom they can reach by the ballot box.

The city council has not been blameless in expenditures, and we should be willing to accept our due proportion of public criticism. Some of the leaks in the council may be attributed to the objectionable practice of ordering, by resolution or ordinance, without due consideration, additional fire hydrants, electric and gasoline lights, providing for the payment of grading out of the general fund, which ought to be paid by the property owners benefited, and also general street work, which is, in many cases, practically a reckless waste of public money. This council has in its power, if it so desires, to prevent this, and a resolution is herewith submitted with this report bearing upon this subject, and tending to regulate it at least during 1895.

The finance committee, in fact, has based its recommendations for the tax levy for 1895 upon the expectation that the present city council will adopt such resolution. If a different policy is to be pursued, and we are to continue to add to our monthly and yearly bills by ordering gas and electric lights and grading and other street work, there will be an overlap to which your committee desires to call special attention at this time. If the resolution is adopted we believe that there will be a saving in the items mentioned of 3 to 4 mills in the annual levy. We beg to make the following recommendations for 1895:

That no resolutions or ordinacnes be adopted ordering additional fire hydrants; that no resolution be adopted ordering additional gasoline lamps; that no resolution be adopted ordering additional gas lamps; that no resolution be adopted ordering additional electric lights; that no street work be done by resolution, except as may be in the regular way by the Board of Public Works, a fund for which is provided in the annual appropriation; that no more grading or paving be done, the expense of which shall be paid out of the general fund.

It should be borne in mind that a water hydrant, a gas lamp, gasoline lamp, or an electric light is just like some office holders; when it once gets on the pay roll it becomes a pensioner for all time upon the taxpayers and is in deed and in fact a fixed charge, from which there is no escape; hence the necessity of calling a halt in this class of expenditures for the present relief of the people.

KNOCKED OFF A MILL.

The accompanying resolution by Taylor was as follows:

Resolved, That the committee on rules be, and it is hereby, instructed to submit an amendment to the rules, providing that the expenditures of money for 1895 shall not be made by resolution for additional lights, water hydrants or for grading, paving or street improvements, to be paid out of the general fund, but that all such contemplated expenditures or improvements be made by ordinance or concurrent resolution, mimeograph copies of which shall be furnished by the city clerk to each member of the city council, provided that, in an emergency, only unanimous consent may be obtained for such expenditures by concurrent resolution.

After some parliamentary convolutions the council found itself in the committee of the whole, and the proceedings were inaugurated by a lively bout between Taylor and Howell. Taylor suggested that Howell had probably accomplished all that he intended by the resolution, as it was simply a piece of political buncombe. He knew as well as any one else that the minority had refused to be represented on the finance committee, and had no excuse for bringing in the resolution.

Then Howell rose up in wrath. "You are a nice man," he said, "to accuse me of political buncombe, and pretty soon I will have you up before the bar of this council to apologize. I do not intend to be talked to in this way by a man who has only served two months in the council."

The debate cooled down after a while and a peace was declared between the belligerants. Mr. Taylor retracted the offensive phrase and his late opponent surpassed himself in complimenting the report of the committee on finance. But he held that the report did not go far enough, and something more substantial must be offered in the way of retrenchment before he would vote for the proposed levy. He went into statistics to show that the expense of operating some of the city offices was far greater at present than it was some years ago when there was very nearly the same work to be accomplished, and in this he was supported by Burkley, who cited the average salaries paid by several large establishments to show that the city was paying its clerks far more liberally than did other corporations. Howell finally moved that the levy for the general fund proposed by the finance committee be reduced one mill. Saunders moved as an amendment that the report of the committee be adopted as read and the minority resolution be placed on file. Nearly all the members expressed themselves on the proposition, after which the amendment was carried. The levy ordinance as proposed by the finance committee was passed, Burkley, Cahn, Howell, Lemly, Mercer and Thomas voting in the negative.

The bread ordinance, which was passed at the previous meeting, making a loaf twenty-four ounces, was returned with a vigorous veto by the mayor. After some discussion the veto was sustained by a unanimous vote, with the understanding that an ordinance should be introduced in which the objectionable feature should be eliminated.

NATIONAL FARMERS'S ALLIANCE.

Supreme Council Welcomed to Raleigh' North Carolina.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 5.—The supreme council of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial union met in annual convention here today. United States Senator-elect Marion Butler, president of the National alliance, called the council to order and presented Mayor Badger of this city, who delivered the address of welcome. The mayor in his remarks referred to efforts of a malignant character to create prejudice between the laborers of the city and the laborers of the country, and hoped that the influence of the alliance might be exerted toward a cessation of all such schemes. President Newburn of the North Carolina State alliance welcomed the council on behalf of the state. Responses were made by H. L. Loucks of South Dakota, ex-president of the organization, and I. E. Dean of New York.

Delegates were present from twenty states and more are expected tomorrow. At the evening meeting of the council the following resolutions on the currency question were adopted:

Whereas, It is currently reported that another bond issue has been determined upon by the president of the United States; and

Whereas, In our opinion existing statute laws do not authorize such issue; neither do present emergencies require it; and

Whereas, The power is now reposed in the general government to meet such pressing contingencies, and by the plain terms of existing laws; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this national council of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial union in regular session assembled enter our solemn and most earnest protest against such issue.

Resolved, That instead the administration be urged to employ the option allowed by law and pay out silver as well as gold when coin is demanded for the treasury notes.

Resolved, That if this does not end the present emergency the government be requested to issue non-interest bearing full legal tender treasury notes.

MUSIC AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB.

Musically this has been a red letter week in the history of Omaha, William H. Sherwood, America's great piano virtuoso, appearing in concert Monday evening, while last night a new comer to the west, Miss Priscella White of Boston made a profound impression as a singer whose future is among the stars. Modest, unassuming in manner, with few of the tricks of the lyric profession, Miss White sang to an audience in the Woman's club rooms in so masterly a manner that her praises will ring today in musical circles. She won a notable triumph, and that, too, in a room illy suited to her voice, which, in its satiny quality, is very like that of Emma Eames, but what is still more remarkable, coupled with this liquid quality there is dramatic fervor and intensity which must bring the young singer into national prominence. Her program was exacting, to say the least, coverlng the light, airy chansons of the French composers, the sweet ballads of our English and the tragedies of the Italian and German writers, as a whole, a remarkably fine program, wisely selected to bring out the phrasing and the temperament of the artiste. Never has an Omaha audience heard the immortal number from "La Traviata" "Ah! Fors e' Lui," taken with such tempo as Miss White gave it last night and sustaining the notes throughout in so absolutely a musicianly manner. And such an ovation as the young woman received compensated for all the weary years of toil and endeavor the perfection of that one tragic tone poem cost the singer. The "Spring Song" of Mendelssohn was beautifully rendered and was received with the enthusiasm a perfect rendition of the song merited. For an encore to the Verdi number Miss White gave "The Proposal," by Brocket, a simple bit of melody, telling how the scarlet creeper loves the elm, but so daintily noted that it, too, won warm praise. Three French songs showed the versatility of this talented artiste, and they were sung with the verve that universally accompanies anything written by Chaminade and Loge. "Sunshine," by Grieg, was sung with warmth and feeling, her colorature work being far above what Omaha