

FIGHT ON THE BRIDGE BILL

U. W. Wattles Reintroduces Protest Made by Senator Millard.

AGREE ON NEBRASKA-MISSOURI BOUNDARY

Railroad Attorneys Leave Washington Confident There Will Be No Rate Legislation This Session.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—(Special Telegram.)—The fight on Representative Smith's bill granting a charter to the Central Railway & Bridge company to construct a bridge across the Missouri River between Council Bluffs and Omaha will be renewed on Thursday, when the commerce committee of the senate will have the bill under consideration. Senator Millard has fortified himself with material to combat the measure and it is expected he will have the assistance of Gordon W. Wattles, attorney general of Missouri, who will arrive in Omaha tomorrow. In all probability Mr. Wattles will also appear before the commerce committee in opposition to the measure.

Agree on Boundary Line.

An agreement has been reached between the states of Missouri and Nebraska in regard to the boundary line between Atchison county, Missouri, and Nemaha county, Nebraska. Yesterday Herbert S. Hadley, attorney general of Missouri, appeared in the supreme court and asked that a decree be entered confirming the agreement. He also asked that a committee of two be appointed to run the boundary line as agreed upon and set up monuments. In view of the participation of Alfred H. Hubbert of Nebraska and John W. Hurlburt of Missouri as arbitrators in running the boundary line between the two states, he further asked that these gentlemen be appointed to conduct the survey and establish the monuments.

Work for a Federal Judge.

Among the very first things which Senator-elect Burkett will take up after he becomes a full fledged senator will be the division of Nebraska into two federal judicial districts. It is expected the Platte river will be used as a dividing line between the two districts. While he anticipates opposition to the measure, Mr. Burkett stated today the division was absolutely necessary.

Modifies Building Plans.

Supervising architect Taylor has modified the plans for the Laramie, Wyo., public building and specifications are being prepared so that bids may be advertised for within thirty days. A contract was originally let to a Leadville firm for the construction of the Laramie building, but the firm failed to give the proper security for carrying out the contract the supervising architect has been compelled to modify his plans so as to insure its erection.

The president has signed the senate military bill, correcting the military record of Fred W. Smith of Clarke, Neb., and removing the charge of desertion which stands against his name.

The claim of W. R. Akers of the Alliance land office for \$70 passed the house today and goes to the president for approval.

Railroad Attorneys Easy.

Several of the prominent railroad attorneys, including W. C. Taylor of Burlington, Low of the Santa Fe and Peck of the Milwaukee, who have been in Washington for the past six weeks keeping an eye on prospective anti-railroad legislation, have returned to their homes confident that there will be no legislation in this session, but of course faithful to the railway interests. The fact that the house will pass a railway rate bill does not cause uneasiness, and these attorneys, who have made it their business to look into the situation, have concluded that there will be no legislation that will hurt them.

The house republicans will caucus either Thursday or Friday night, the petition for a caucus having been circulated today. The Ech-Townsend bill having been reported by the majority of the Interstate Commerce committee, throwing aside the Hepburn bill, the house republicans will have nothing more to do than to vote for the bill after it has been considered in caucus and made a party measure.

Cannon for University.

Senator Gamble today introduced a joint resolution authorizing the secretary of war to furnish condemned cannon to the Board of Regents of the University of South Dakota at Vermilion, to be placed on the campus of the university as a memorial to students of the university who served in the Spanish-American war.

Railroad for Alaska.

Senator Dietrich has introduced in the senate and Congressman Mondell in the house a bill to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from Valdez to Eagle City, Alaska, and to secure to the government the use of the same for postal, military or other purposes.

The proposed new railroad is to be known as the Transalaska Railroad company, and the following men are to be incorporated: Henry Bratton, California; Charles F. Manderson, James E. Kelby, George W. Holdrege, Nebraska; George C. Hazlett, Alaska; William Todd, New York, and Edward Gillette, Wyoming.

The First National bank of Olin, Ia., was today authorized to begin business, with \$250,000 capital. George I. Schoonover is president. George W. Huber vice president and M. H. Crissman cashier.

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STOCKMEN ARE MUCH WORRIED

Heavy Snow, High Wind and Low Temperature on the Range.

ALLIANCE, Neb., Jan. 31.—(Special Telegram.)—Snow has fallen here steadily for nearly twenty-four hours and at 9 o'clock tonight it is still in progress with no signs of abatement. With the thermometer at zero and a wind blowing strong fears are entertained by stockmen that this will be a bad night on stock, for this condition prevails throughout the entire western part of the state, with a lower temperature and greater wind velocity in some parts.

TELEPHONE COMPANIES COMBINE

Bell People Take Over Independent Line at Fremont.

FREMONT, Neb., Jan. 31.—(Special.)—Negotiations are in progress which it is thought will be successful for the consolidation of the Fremont Telephone company with the Bell company. The details of the consolidation remain to be done. Under the proposed plan the consolidated company, which will be practically the Bell company, succeeds to all the property, rights, etc., of the Fremont company, including connections with local companies at Hooper and other points, and the new line in process of construction in Pohoco precinct, Saunders county. The plan is likely to meet with serious opposition, not so much from local stockholders as from counting lines which are associated with the independent telephone systems throughout this part of the state. The Hooper company says that this arrangement leaves them out almost entirely and charges the Fremont company with bad faith. The Alliance company is also opposed to it, characterizing it as a sell-out to the Bell people. On the other hand, the Fremont company claims that the consolidated company will be able to connect with all lines now belonging to both the independent and Bell people, which they would be permitted to do by the independent companies in a serious question.

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ARMY BILL TO CONFERENCE

House Refuses to Agree to Amendment Regarding Pay of Retired Officers.

SENATE DISCUSSES STATEHOOD BILL

Measure is Passed Placing Tax on Capital Stock of Corporations Incorporated in District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The treatment by General Nelson A. Miles of Jefferson Davis, president of the confederacy, during the time he was a prisoner at Fort Monroe, Va., was recalled in the house today, when Mr. Williams of Mississippi, the minority leader, tried to secure the adoption of the senate amendment to the house provision regarding retired officers serving with the state militia. Messrs. Hall of Iowa and Hay of Virginia, both members of the military affairs committee, endorsed the house provision making it retroactive. The latter declared it was democratic doctrine to save money and for that reason called upon democrats to stand by them. It was at this juncture that Mr. Williams arose and spoke of the actions of General Miles placing shackles on the ankles of Jefferson Davis. He shared, he said, the opinion of southern men as to that, but he did not think it was the time, the place nor the way to get even. Mr. Williams' motion to agree to the senate amendment, which would retroactively have been lost 79 to 171. All the other amendments were nonconcurrent. The bill then was sent to conference.

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BATTLE CREEK, Jan. 31.—Two big lead ore has been discovered by real estate dealer in Battle Creek in the last month. Jack Moore purchased of Owen O'Neill the mine and a half north, consideration \$25,000.