THE STATE JOURNAL.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA

By Frank P. MacLennan.

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WEATHER INDICATIONS.

Washington, March 24.—For Kansas: Forecast till 8 p. m. Sunday: Generally fair; colder in eastern portions Sunday morning; warmer in west.

NEW YORK is still howling about the trolley car. It is too fast for her.

IT spells a men to hold office too long. There are two or three spoiled men in the court house.

WHY is it that honest men in office are so scarce? It must be that honest men can earn a great deal more money attending to their own business.

COXEY it seems is not such a crank after all, when people are sending him $1,500 a day. It does pay to be a fool, if you are only a big enough one.

THE man who spoke of "life's fitful fever," must have been an editor who had to make five scare heads go onto a page where there was only room for three.

MRS. LEASE'S intimate acquaintance with Governor Lewelling has made her begin to admire Senator Ingalls. She regards herself and the senator as the two greatest orators in the United States.

LEAVENWORTH Times: Before Hoch came out as a candidate the friends of Morrill in Topeka claimed that the Shawnee county delegation would be instructed for him. Now they are working with all their might to keep the delegation from being instructed for Hoch. They have suddenly discovered that it is all wrong to instruct a delegation.

PUBLIC officials who engage in skulduggery are sure to be found out. Why are they so indignant when exposure comes? They forget that they are servants of the people and that the newspaper is also a servant of the people. It is the newspaper's business to watch public officials—not to conceal their shortcomings.

SALINA REPUBLICAN: The Hon. John F. Willis, who goes about carrying the head decapitated by Gov. Lewelling under his arm, affirms that the latter gentlemen will never be governor again, nor hold any other office. Of course the Hon. Mr. Willis is safe in his affirmation. He might have made it broader by saying nor will any other Populist be governor of Kansas again.

NEWTON Republican: Herman Von Lengen, editor of the German paper at Topeka, has been appointed register of the land office at Topeka. Von Lengen lived at Newton a year or such a matter in the early eighties. He started a little German paper here and also followed the profession of architect and furnished the plans for the Marsh building, now occupied by T. B. Atchison's hardware store.

IN answering a newspaper report that Hoch and MacLennan had made a combination for governor and state printer, the latter in his paper, the STATE JOURNAL, formally declines the office. How noble and self-sacrificing.—Burlington Republican.

Now let Major Hudson be "noble and self-sacrificing" by also withdrawing and thus prove to the public that he and Coxey Island are in no combination on a divided delegation in Shawnee for governor and a solid one for state printer.

THE newspaper is not a private institution run exclusively for the money there is in it. It is its mission to tell the people all that is going on, to fearlessly point out fraud, to enlighten the public on the doings of men who ask their suffrage. It is just as clearly the duty of the newspaper to furnish this kind of information to the public as it is that of a lawyer to take care of his client's case to the best of his ability; that of the minister of the gospel to point out the best way of living. There is an implied contract between the newspaper publisher and his subscribers that the party of the first part shall furnish to the party of the second part all the information that they desire so far as the publisher's ability goes. The newspaper that does less than this falls below the standard exacted by its readers; and generally, too, they will forsake a newspaper that does not do this, for one that will do it.

AFTER all, the "Coxey movement" if it materializes, is one of the most startling incidents of the times. Aside from the fact that Coxey is a crank, why is it that his project meets with the endorsement of thousands of people all over the country? There is something to think about in this. If congress had not dilly dallied and fooled away its time on matters which do not seem to bring relief to the people in the slightest degree, would this curious project have sprung up at all? Isn't it perfectly natural that queer ideas will take possession of large bodies of people when the country is suffering from a situation which the present congress does not appear to have the sense to comprehend or the desire to relieve? While we may regard this "Army of the Commonweal" as the height of folly, still we can not fail to see that it would never had been thought of if congress had done something to relieve the misery of the working people and the farming classes. It has been in session for months and it has done nothing. It is almost a useless body. We all look to it for help when the country is in such dire straits, but it does nothing but talk. There is a Niagara of words, but times get no better. It will not be surprising if there are worse things than Coxey's march to Washington if matters do not improve.

THEY are not in favor of a "divided delegation" in Marion county. At a meeting there a few days ago, Hon. J. W. Moore, who was a candidate for lieutenant governor, until Hoch consented to run for governor, introduced a series of strong resolutions which were enthusiastically adopted. The following is one of the paragraphs:

"Yes, we have had a change, and now the convention resolves that we will have another change—if you doubt us come, read again the returns from Pennsylvania. We resolve that this change shall begin with the nomination of Hon. E. W. Hoch for governor, and the election of the entire Republican ticket next November. It is not necessary in this convention of Marion county Republicans to do more than mention Mr. Hoch's name. We all know him; know his worth and wisdom, know how well he has filled the positions to which we have elected him, and now we say to him, 'go up higher,' feeling that his administration of the affairs of this state will never bring to our cheeks the blush of shame, and to our hearts a feeling of regret; and we here pledge ourselves that we will do all that we honorably can to make his nomination and election sure."

KANSAS PARAGRAPHS.

Twelve prisoners enjoy the hospitality of the Labette county jailer.

The season at Kingman is hovering fitfully between ice cream and oysters.

There is an ordinance at Newton against driving a bunch of cattle through the streets.

Two thousand dozen eggs were shipped out of Girard one day last week, according to the World.

The old fashioned writing school teacher who draws fancy and impossible birds and other creatures, is in Beloit.

The chewing gum habit has advanced enough at Burlington for the girls to beg a chew just like a man would beg a smoke.

Atchison Globe: A victim dog in Scottsville, which amuses itself by biting strangers, is named "Gentle Annie."

The Hiawatha World thinks it has made a great discovery—that there is a dishonest lawyer practicing in that town.

Miss Kate Stevens lectured before the State University law department yesterday on "The Legal Status of Women."

A farmer near Salina set fire to his neighbor's stacks. As the evidence against him is very strong, he will undoubtedly be punished for his heinous offense.

What is this political economy that congress is talking so much about as if it were a big thing? The Clay Center high school finished political economy in six months.

An Atchison man says one can get drunk on onions, and does it himself. There are two advantages to the plan, you never have to take anything for your breath, and no one will drink with you.

Emporia Gazette: The Reflector sees there are too many like laws in Indiana and Kansas. In Indiana they are shooting craps and smoking cigarettes instead of rustling for jobs. When these boys grow up they will form citizens' alliances and denounce the plutocrats who worked and saved their wages.

Troy Chief: Chief Justice Horton owned a valuable tract of land above Atchison, which has been completely washed away by the river. This raises the important question as to whether the disaster does not disqualify him for the official position. A lawyer generally reasons from the premises. Having lost his premises, is not his reason gone?

THE EMPORIA CONVENTION

The Call for the Fourth District Issued by Chairman Troutman.

A Republican convention for the Fourth congressional district will be held in the city of Emporia on Tuesday, the 27th day of March, 1894, at 8 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of placing in nomination a Republican candidate for congress from said district.

The several counties in the district shall be entitled to the following representation, (including an equal number of alternates,) in said convention, namely:

Butler	14
Coffey	10
Chase	6
Greenwood	10
Lyon	14
Marion	12
Morris	8
Osage	14
Shawnee	36
Wabaunsee	8
Woodson	6
Total	138

Credentials for the delegates elected from each county should be sent as soon as said delegates are chosen to the secretary of the committee at Marion, Kansas.

JAMES A. TROUTMAN, Chairman.
JOHN B. GREER, Secretary.

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THAT BIG RED BARN.

THE LARGEST AND UGLIEST BUILDING IN WASHINGTON.

A Visit to the United States Pension Office. Curious Facts and Figures—Pension Rolls Receding—Average Age at Which Veterans Die.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, March 22.—On the north side of Judiciary square, on the tract bounded east and west by Fifth and Sixth streets and north and south by F and G streets, stands the largest brick building in the world. It is 400 by 250 feet in extent, contains, with the galleries, 199,000 square feet of standing room and would serve as standing space for 50,000 soldiers in line. In its walls are 56,000,000 bricks. From the tiled floor to the odd looking roof (which was to have been a dome) is 180 feet, and each of the galleries surrounding the central court is one-eighth of a mile in circuit.

It is the best lighted, best heated, best ventilated and ugliest of all the public buildings in Washington and is known derisively as General Meigs' red barn. It contains 2,009 regular officials and employees and is the central point of more people's interest than any other place probably in the United States. From it more money is granted and to it come more applications for money than from or to any other building in the world, and the man who is at the head of it sees more persons than any other official of this government except the president. This is the United States pension office, which has been under uninterrupted fire for one year and still lies to run the gauntlet of what promises to be one of the hottest political campaigns ever known in an off year.

The Waning Pension Roll.

These facts and many others in this article have been published here and there at different times and are extant in many documents, but it is well to summarize them occasionally for popular reading, that the American people may realize how big and how generous their government has grown to be. From floor to roof the building is full of curiosities, living and documentary. And first it is to be noted that the current year marks the recession of a tide which has been constantly rising for 33 years, or since the civil war first began to swell the pension list.

Only a little while ago experts gave it as their opinion that next year pension payments would reach $180,000,000 and that the annual appropriation would amount to $200,000,000 before the decline began. But the highest expenditures were for the fiscal year 1893, when they were $156,740,407.14. For the current year the appropriations were $165,000,000, but it is now certain that not over $140,000,000 will be expended, and so

THE PENSION BUILDING.

there will be a surplus of $25,000,000. Every month there are fewer claims filed, and for the last two weeks the falling off has been noticeable daily by the excess of deaths and expirations over new claims allowed. And all this, be it noted, is a natural result and not that of any ruling or policy of the department. With increasing age soldiers and elderly widows die in increasing proportion, younger widows marry again, and young children reach the age of self support. It is therefore figured that by the close of this administration the annual expenditure will but little, if any, exceed $130,000,000.

At the head of this concern is Commissioner William Lochren, a veteran of the First Minnesota and one of the few survivors of that famous charge at Gettysburg, where his regiment lost 215 in killed and wounded out of 262. His two deputy commissioners are Dominick I. Murphy, who was too young for a soldier, and H. C. Bell of Clark county, Ills., who ran away from home at the age of 15 and volunteered in the Twenty-ninth Indiana infantry.

Cases Put Through Quickly.

There are 12 chiefs of divisions, each with two assistants and enough clerks to make nearly two regiments, their pay ranging from $900 to $2,000 per year, so the total payroll of the office is over $2,000,000 per year. It is a treat to see a new application come in and watch it through all its changes. I can compare it only to the exhibit occasionally made at the Chicago stockyards, where a fat bullock is put in in the morning, his carcass in cut meat shipped soon after noon and his hide turned out in boots late in the evening.

First the application is classed, for there are 22 kinds of certificates, ranging from those known as "old war widows" down to the latest from the regular army. Then the expert of that class goes hurriedly through the case, and if any necessary proof under the law is lacking the case is "jacketed," as they call it, and the applicant's attorney notified at once of the point of proof that is lacking. But should the case be a good one and all the proof ready, it goes through not quite so fast as the hide and carcass of the bullock before mentioned, but still with remarkable speed. The recent and present slowness of the department is very largely due to the fact that it is dealing with the most difficult cases under the law, the quick cases, meaning those easy of determination, having been made special and put through rapidly under the former administration.

Border State Pensions.

After standing some time in the neighborhood of 966,000, the number on the rolls has receded a little within a few days. It will, however, increase again in the next stage of the work, but will probably never again equal its maximum last year. Another very interesting fact, and to me a very great surprise, is the number of pensioners in the south, which at first calculation appears to be a little in excess of 176,000. But analysis lessens it somewhat, for of that number 53,439 are in Missouri, 30,055 in Kentucky, some 13,000 each in Maryland and West Virginia and not quite 3,000 in Delaware. So the total number of pensioners in the so called loyal border states is this month fluctuating in the neighborhood of 113,000, having come very near to that figure on two or three occasions.

Deducting these and adding those now in the District of Columbia, but originally from the south, we have about 64,000 for the late confederate states. Of these there are 16,348 in Tennessee which had 31,000 white men in the Union army and has received a great many immigrant veterans from the north. Arkansas comes next with nearly 10,000; then Texas and Virginia have today just about 7,500 each; North Carolina and Louisiana, about 4,500 each; Mississippi, sometimes a little above and sometimes a little below 4,000; Alabama and Georgia, something over 3,000 each, and so on down to South Carolina, which has never quite got up to 1,800. Of course a majority of those from the far south are colored, and the law in regard to colored widows is perhaps the most technical and difficult of any part of the general act. This grew out of the social condition of the colored people in slavery, requiring a peculiar adjustment of the laws as to proof of marriage.

Curious Facts.

And how many men, excluding re-enlistments, were there in the Union army, and how many men were in battle, and what are the chances for the future of those not now pensioned? All these things can be and are calculated with much greater exactness than is generally supposed. Taking counties here and there over the United States, the percentage of re-enlistments can be calculated to a minute fraction. Thus it is known how many of the three month men re-enlisted; how many of the one year men; how many of the three year men who were disabled early in the war recovered and re-enlisted; how many of the 90 day men of the emergency calls and of the six month men and 100 day men had served before or afterward enlisted.

Taking the percentage thus obtained, it is shown that, excluding re-enlistments, the number of actual men in the Union army was not far from 1,850,000. Of these it is estimated that nearly or quite one-third never saw a battle. It is also estimated that between 1 and 2 per cent of the entire number never stood a picket guard or fired a gun even at a target, and a surprisingly large number, but of course less than 1 per cent, never did any kind of military duty at all. Of course it was not the fault of these, either of the third or the lesser per cent, that their case was as it was.

It appears from the record that regiments began to lose men by actual disability immediately after they were sworn in, and of these losses the percentage of kinds of accidents can be estimated. Thus a few men were accidentally shot and disabled when the raw companies first drew their arms. A few were shot by nervous sentinels on guard for the first time; a few more were thrown or kicked by army mules, run over by artillery wagons, run down by escaped horses, knocked off bridges or disabled in any one of 50 ways too numerous to mention. Some men lost toes or fingers by the queerest possible of accidents. A few had an eye put out, and others had their teeth knocked out by the awkwardness of men who were handling cannon or other arms.

Havoc of the Measles.

But as near as can be determined by examination of a few hundred cases at random, it seems that the measles played more havoc at the start than anything else. Along with the measles were other "seasoning" sicknesses, and then came the regular camp sickness, winter fever, mumps, whooping cough and a variety of contagious ailments. Numerous cases are shown of recruits who were fine specimens of perfect physical manhood just from the farm and accustomed to the severest labor who were taken sick in a few days after reaching camp and never entirely recovered. Add to these the 100 day men, six month men and others who guarded railroads, and it is easy to believe that one-third of all the enlisted men never fired a shot in battle.

It further appears that the average age at which veteran soldiers have died is a fraction less than 57 years, and as an overwhelming majority of the survivors have either passed that age or are very near it the ratio of deaths must increase rapidly. It is darkly hinted about Washington that the department has a great surprise in store for the country, and it is occasionally alleged by the opposition that they will spring such surprise about the time the campaign of this year gets heated.

It is said that this surprise is to consist of a general series of prosecutions which will rival those of the whisky frauds of 1876 and create a sensation equal to that created by the Credit Mobilier. It is probable, however, that this is only talk. But since the beginning of this year 72 persons have been convicted of fraud, and many indictments are being found and convictions secured every week. A large majority of these are attorneys, who are the chief sinners, the pensioner in such cases being generally a mere passive instrument.

The Nation's Liberality.

An amusing feature of the case is that under the recent order forbidding any suspension without 30 days' notice and restoring all the pensions so far suspended some men will get back pay on two pensions which they have been drawing illegally, and in a few cases pensions will be paid to men who are in the penitentiary. But to the honor of the veteran it is also a well established fact that the percentage of such criminals is exceedingly small—smaller perhaps than that of criminals in any other class. In short, there is nothing in the records of the pension office but what is well calculated to heighten the patriotism of Americans, to justify the nation's liberality to the soldiers and make every veteran more proud than ever that he was one of those who came to the rescue of his country when it was begirt on every side by its foes.

J. H. BRADLEY.

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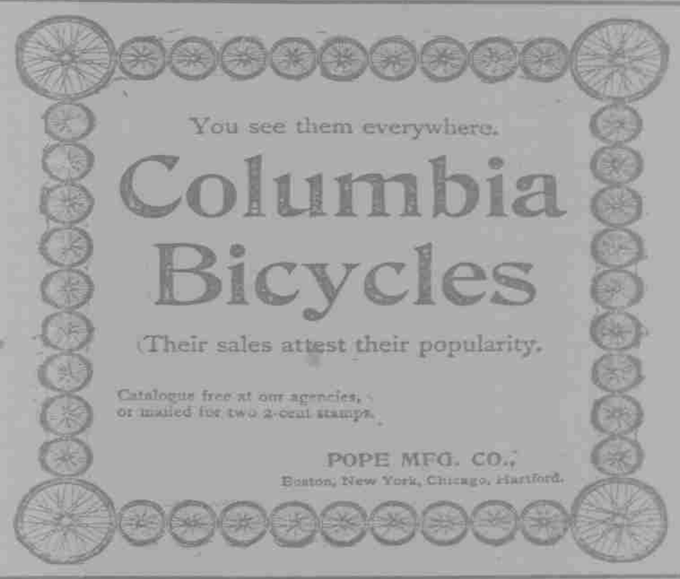

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WILL THEY DO IT?

The State Health Board Makes a Rule, But Who'll Obey It?

Dr. H. A. Dykes, secretary of the state board of health, has issued a circular and will send it over the state to the county health officers. It is regarding the cleaning of water-works reservoirs, and says:

"At a meeting of the state board of health, held in this city on the 5th inst., the following rule was unanimously adopted:

"Every reservoir, settling basin and stand-pipe used by water-works companies, either city or personal, furnishing water for culinary purposes to cities and private individuals, within the state of Kansas, shall be cleaned between the 1st day of April and the 15th day of April, and between the 1st day of September and the 15th day of September of each year. Said cleaning shall be done and performed by withdrawing all water from said reservoir, settling basin, or stand-pipe, and all debris, sediment, settling and dirt or filth of any nature or character, which may have settled at the base of said stand-pipe, reservoir, or settling basin, shall be removed therefrom. Any person, company or corporation, or the managing agent of said corporation, failing to carry out the above rule, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $1,000 for each infraction thereof, and after the fifteen days expire, the fine shall be applicable to each succeeding day."

ONE SERMON ONLY.

Equal Suffrage Association Do Not Ask for a Sermon a Month.

Miss Olive P. Bray and Mrs. Elizabeth Wardell of the Equal Suffrage association write the JOURNAL that it is not the intention of the committee appointed at the last meeting of the association to ask the pastors of the city to preach a sermon once a month on the subject of woman suffrage. There was some discussion by several of the members as to whether this should be done, but the committee was finally instructed to ask only one sermon on this subject.

Miss Bray says: "I ask the privilege of saying to the ministers of the city that they need not take to the woods fearing they will be overwhelmed by a delegation from the Equal Suffrage association, asking them to preach one sermon a month in favor of the amendments, as no such thing is anticipated. While all of us believe that it would be eminently proper to ask the ministers to preach a sermon on a subject so important as this and so in harmony with the spirit of the golden rule, and have appointed a committee to make of them this request, yet very few of us would think it reasonable to ask ministers to preach one sermon a month on this or any other one subject, when so many demand their attention."

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Porcelain Rice Cooker	" .80, at	.60
Granite Tea Kettle	" 1.00, at	.80
Steel Skillet	" .35, at	.25
Steel Cake Griddle	" .25, at	.20
Gallon Oil Can	" .35, at	.25
Wire Clothes Line	" .25, at	.20
Scrub Brush	" .20, at	.15

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