

THE BIG FIGHT

OVER THE SOUTHWESTERN R. R. Shall the Southern Minnesota Extension or the Southwestern Get the Land Grant—Lively and Acrimonious Debate Before the Legislative Committees.

A meeting of the House railroad committee on railroads was held last evening at the Mechanics, there being a large attendance of parties interested in the Southern Minnesota and Southwestern railroads present.

On motion, outside parties were granted permission to be heard upon the measure pending in the House regarding the roads named.

Mr. Wolstencroft, of Murray county, believed the Southern Minnesota was going to be constructed and that the road should be built on the lands given to the road, independent of all bonuses to divert it. None of the lines have been absolutely located.

Mr. Van Horn, of La Crosse, said the original legislation named certain points, Fairmont and Jackson, and the people had built their hopes on that fact. The Southern Minnesota had never proposed to deviate, or consider it had any right to do so.

Mr. Dunn, of Winnebago city, said the point in dispute was as to which should receive the land grant. Both were on an equal footing, organized under no special legislation, but each sought the magnificent Congressional land grant for railroad purposes.

The Southern Minnesota had been granted the lands in 1867, on condition of building the road in ten years, but it had defaulted, leaving 160,000 acres to the State. The Southern Minnesota Railroad company, has been blotted out, but had been succeeded by the Southern Minnesota Railway company under the act of last session, which now owned the complete line.

Next appeared upon the scene the Southern Minnesota Railway Extension company, which was composed of La Crosse gentlemen, except one, claiming to be an auxiliary of the Southern Minnesota Railway company. In the belief of the speaker, the Extension company would gobble the lands under prestige of the S. M. Railway company, which would appear to be honest.

The S. M. Railway company had forfeited and abandoned its grants by allowing and fostering the Martin county railroad as an independent company, and not as a branch, joining its terminus and continuing the line westward.

The contract with Martin county was a good thing to get rid of, which was being attempted by establishing the Southern Minnesota Extension company. The Martin county railroad was reorganized under the name of the Southwestern Minnesota railroad company, which had the same object as the former.

The Southwestern company now wanted what had been forfeited and abandoned, first, by the Southern Minnesota railroad company, and secondly, by the western Minnesota railroad company, as soon as Messrs. Van Horn & Co. found the likelihood of the land grant slipping from them they filed articles of incorporation of the Southern Minnesota Railway Extension company.

Mr. Van Horn, representing the extension company, briefly alluded to its history. It was, in reality, a part and parcel of the Southern Minnesota railway company. The extension company is to be bonded for iron and ties to the Southern Minnesota railway company, and the latter would equip the extension. The receivership and the grasshoppers had prevented the construction of the line further west than Winnebago city.

Mr. G. B. Kingsley, of Blue Earth city, claimed that the grade of the Extension company exhibited by Mr. Van Horn, might be a rumped up affair. All that the Southwestern company wanted was justice in the premises, as it was acting in good faith and offered to build ten miles more than the Extension company. It had been said the Southwestern company had no money to go on with the work, but the fact of the company offering to forfeit \$15,000 if the twenty miles of the road were not completed in sixty days, should assure the committee. The road could be built between Winnebago city and Fairmont in sixty days, and Mr. Van Horn knew it.

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Solemn Requiem Mass Yesterday—Life of the Pope Described by Rev. Simplicius Wimmer—Description of the Ceremonies.

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So Far as the Judiciary Committee is Concerned—The Arguments of Counsel Last Night—A Disreputable Morning Paper Excoriated.

The judiciary committee met at 8 o'clock last evening to hear the arguments of counsel upon the Page impeachment. Before calling the committee to order, Chairman Campbell asked the committee whether the rule previously adopted as to preserving secrecy should be still enforced, and on Messrs. Ladd and Hicks indicating a preference for the further enforcement of the rule, The Globe representative forthwith withdrew, as did one or two others who had entered the chamber under the impression that the proceedings were no longer to be kept secret.

The petitioners case was opened by Mr. Clough, who commenced his argument by reading from the constitution, and enumerating the offenses for which judges may be impeached in this State. Under the laws of Minnesota, any misdemeanor in office is a criminal offense, and then stated the nature of impeachable offenses at common law. In support of his points, he referred to the Andrew Johnson impeachment case, and contended that Judge Page was guilty of offenses for which impeachment was provided by the constitution in this State, the proper and only remedy. No reputed lawyer, who had heard even a small part of the testimony, doubted that Page had committed crimes for which he ought to be impeached and removed from the high position he holds. In this connection he referred to Judge Pickering's case in 1803, who was impeached for appearing upon the bench while he was intoxicated. He also referred to the prosecutions under the alien and sedition laws for libel upon President Adams, and from the cases named quoted the law, which he contended was applicable to the case at bar. After stating the law governing the case, Mr. Clough proceeded to review the testimony in the case, quoting largely from that of Stinson, Ingundson, R. J. Smith, and others, and dwelling particularly upon that portion of Ingundson's testimony which ascribed to Judge Page the remark that Ingundson was worse than the Younger brothers, and deserved to be in the penitentiary. What sort of a chance for a fair trial could a man have before such a jury? He closed by saying that he had merely glanced at the testimony, and would reserve a portion of his time for a reply to the charges made by the other side.

In his argument, Mr. Clough occupied about one hour and a quarter, and consequently had three-quarters of an hour for his closing argument. Mr. A. Lovely summed up in behalf of Judge Page. He commenced by saying that the real prosecutors of Judge Page were Ingundson, R. J. Smith, and the Mower county ring, and contended that the case, proceeding largely from that of Stinson, Ingundson, R. J. Smith, and others, and dwelling particularly upon that portion of Ingundson's testimony which ascribed to Judge Page the remark that Ingundson was worse than the Younger brothers, and deserved to be in the penitentiary. What sort of a chance for a fair trial could a man have before such a jury? He closed by saying that he had merely glanced at the testimony, and would reserve a portion of his time for a reply to the charges made by the other side.

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After some conversation the committee adjourned until to-night at 8 p. m., at the Merchants. The same arguments were presented by the same parties before the Senate committee in the afternoon of yesterday, and the committee adjourned until Tuesday evening next, without action in the premises.

A Serious Accident. Wednesday evening at about 7 o'clock an accident occurred which even now may be termed fatal. A lad about sixteen years of age, named Frank St. John, was riding down Broadway when his pony became unmanageable, and tearing down the street at a terrific speed ran into one of Cook's hacks, at the corner of Eighth. The collision precipitated the boy to the ground, striking upon his head and rendered insensible. He was immediately removed to his boarding house at the corner of Eighth and Robert streets, and Dr. Richeson was soon in attendance.

The doctor found the poor lad had fractured his skull at the base of the brain, and was in a partially comatose state. The lad remained insensible for over four hours, when he rallied a little and was able to articulate a few words. It appears that the unfortunate boy is an orphan whose nearest relatives live at Pine City. He was

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AMUSEMENTS.

Dramatic and Musical Entertainment at the OPERA HOUSE, FRIDAY EVENING, FEB 15th. For the benefit of the WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN HOME!

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AMUSEMENTS.

FRIDAY EVENING, FEB 15th. For the benefit of the WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN HOME!

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