Daily Globe.

VOLUME I. | ST. PAUL, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1878. | NUMBER 38.

HORRIBLE BRUTALITY!!

At St. Peter Asylum.

Shocking Tale If True.

Employes' Statement.

Investigation Ordered.

When the Senate opened its session yesterday, Senator Rice sprung a genuine sensation by presenting letters making most serious charges against the management of the insane asylum at St. Peter. If true, they show a terrible condition of affairs. The Senate promptly ordered an investigation, and Senators Doran, Rice, Edgerton, Morton and Drew were appointed the committee. The following are the charges:

"Allow us, the undersigned, to call your attention particularly to some things which ought to be very important for the Legislature, but which also, perhaps, will be very difficult to investigate without any personal knowledge about it, viz.: The method and practical way in which the hospital for the insane is managed. But we have been employed at the hospital for several years (some of us six or seven years) and have seen and abhorred the treatment the patients have been subjected to by those who are hired to serve, assist and care for the afflicted, we consider it our duty not only to inform you of it as a memer of the legislative body and one of our countrymen, (the majority of us being Scandinavians,) but also to beseech you to have the kindness to offer our petition to the Legislature.

To give you some idea about this we will give you a few facts which transpired while we were employed at the hospital.

At the branch hospital in St. Peter is a man by the name of John Bitts, employed as assistant supervisor. A part of his duty is to see that the patients are served with wholesome food, clothing and other necessities.

The least we can say is that in regard to food, he has been very negligent. The meat, particularly, has not only been tough and dry, such as is obtained from old, over-worked cattle, and unfit for food, but it has frequently happened that when distributed among the patients, hair and manure have been found boiled together with the meat.

It is also his duty to administer the medicine to the patients. Occasionally it is necessary to compel the patient to take the medicine. To facilitate this, a wooden plug is placed between the teeth so as to open the mouth while the medicine is poured in.

But Mr. Bitts not only forces the mouth open, but when the patients are troublesome, he becomes angry and forces the plug down in their throats so far, and with such rudeness, that not only the patient's mouth, but the plug also is covered with blood.

Frequently to avoid the trouble to compel them to take the medicine he simply pours it outside the mouth so it runs down on their clothes and not a drop goes where it ought to go.

Yet still worse: Last summer we had a patient who had to be compelled to take his food in the same way as was just related about the medicine, i. e., his mouth had to be opened and kept open with the plug, while the soup prepared for the purpose was poured in his mouth.

After a time the attendant was ordered by Mr. Bitts to take this patient to the table during meals, not to feed him, but allow him to have his own way to see how long he would persist in refusing to eat. This lasted for three days, the patient touching nothing, not even a drink of water. After this Mr. Bitts seemed moved to feed him again, and at the third meal after his three days fasting, the as usual wa sobstinate.

After a time Mr. Bitts became very angry and ordered the attendant and a few of the other patients to lay him down on a bench and hold him. While he was thus lying down Mr. Bitts takes this plug, puts it into the prostrate patient's throat and thus prevents him from swallowing; then Mr. Bitts poured the soup into the poor fellow's mouth. The consequence was that he was choked. The attendant tried to draw Mr. Bitts' attention to this fact, but he answered that it was not dangerous. He afterwards did see it was dangerous, though. Then Mr. Bitts ordered the patient to be lifted up and shook, but all to no purpose. The patient was then carried in and laid upon a bed and the doctor was sent for, but when he came in the poor man drew his last breath.

Those that were present on this occasion believe that this was the reason of his death, but of course it was not to be understood in that way or let out in that light.

Mr. Bitts has also of late been insulting, overbearing and ungentlemanly against his subordinates at so many different times, too many to here repeat.

In one word, he has been so unreasonable that we could not remain any longer as employes at the branch hospital, and sent to the superintendent and steward askiug to have Mr. Bitts removed, or else stating that we were compelled to leave. To this the steward and superintendent paid no attention. We then personally applied at the office of the hospital, but they would not even listen to our trouble, but the assistant doctor told the steward to pay us off and let us go, as they could get twenty to fill our places.

We then started to put our things in order to leave. While doing this, the superintendent came down and said that if we wanted to leave he could not prevent us, but we could not get any money unless we first gave notice of our leaving, and then staid one month after that, with the exception of two of us, who were discharged immediately.

It may seem strange that we did not appear to the board of trustees, but we knew that it would be useless, as the trusfees, the doctors and officers of the institution hang together in a ring, so there can be no change in the management before there is a change in some of the office-holders.

We want to except Mr. G. W. Dyer. He is a gentleman, knows his business and tries to do his duty as far as he can.

Mr. Bitts has also an office as sexton in a church, the hospital trustee and treasurer, Rev. Kerr, is teacher, from which we think, he also draws a salary. Much time and work is needed here, as the church is large and often used. But Mr. Butts has the patients from the hospital to do the work and saw the wood which is needed at the churches. What right he has to do this, we leave those to find out whose business it is to see to it. A careful investigation is needed in regard to the hospital, as before stated. Therefore, we think it our duty to inform you about it, and ask Mr. Rice kindly to lay this before the Legislature.

Very Respectfully,

St. Peter, Feb. 18, 1878.

P. S.—If it should be anything else that we could inform about, we are willing to answer any questions. Address

N. A. LILYQUIST,
Box 260. St. Peter, Minn.

Signed:

CHARLES SWANSON,
DEWITT C. MORTON,
R. H. MCMILLIN,
ANDREW HERBERG,
L. A. LILYQUIST,
S. J. TURNER'
SWAN GUSTAFSON.

Senator Ahrens also sent up the following letter, which was read:

ST. PETER, Minn., Feb. 19th, 1878.

To the Honorable Henry Ahrens, Member of State Senate:

DEAR SIR—Knowing and believing that you are a man of word and character, I would most humbly make the statement following below, to you, illustrating how I have been treated by G. W. Dryer, steward at the asylum for the insane, located at St. Peter, Minnesota:

Bids for furnishing good mutton and beef, according to contract, were offered to the public at large up to January 1st, 1873. During the year 1873 I had the contract, and executed the same satisfactorily to all parties, in every particular. During the year 1874, Mr. W. Davis had the contract. It has been customary that bids were brought in for furnishing meats on the 26th of December of each year, for the year following.

For the year 1875 no proposals were offered, although I was there, at the steward's office, on the usual day, to hand in my proposal for furnishing meat during that year, but was told that the contract had been given out. There were no public proposals offered during, or for the year 1876.

A week previous to the 26th of December, 1876, I called at the steward's office and asked Mr. Dryer how he was disposed in offering proposals for furnishing meat for the asylum for the insane, whereupon he informed me that he did not know what to do in regard to that; that he would see the board of trustees, whether they would deem it best to establish a butcher shop at the asylum, or not.

I called on several members of the board concerning that part, of whom I received the answer, that if Mr. Dyer had said such, he would manage things satisfactorily. Thereupon, I presented my proposal to Mr. Dryer, on the 25th of December, 1876, for furnishing meat, at the rate of $6.95 per 100 pounds, when Mr. Dryer, the steward, informed me that he would let me know, as soon as possible, and I have never heard of it since.

Now, Mr. Ahrens, you will at once perceive that this sort of actions are not fair, in no shape or way. When I furnished the hospital with meat, I had to comply with every letter of the contract as regarding the furnishing of first class meat, but as it is now, most everything imaginable is brought there, such as bull beef, and young veal which cannot sell in a decent market. All I would ask is to have a fair show between my fellow men, as I do not believe in giving one man all the advantage of an institution supported and governed by the State.

Being that you are, and have been, on the committee for the insane asylum, I would most respectfully request you to give this matter your kind attention; besides, there is one man's time as a trustee, about up, and it would be well if the authorities would at once have, or take in consideration the vile doings of a certain clique, and give everyone a chance to offer his desires, or give vent to his inclinations. Hoping to hear from you as a personal friend, I remain; respectfully yours,

HENRY HILDEBRANDT.

Senator Rice said that the charges contained in the communications were very serious, and he suggested the propriety of a committee to investigate, on which he would like to hear from Senators.

Senator Doran said these were grave charges. He had also heard serious accusations against the general management of the institution, especially as to its extravagance. His Republican friends, upon whom the responsibility for the institution rested, ought to take some action in the matter, and that speedily. For himself, he feared that the charges were not without foundation in fact, and that the institution was decidedly rotten. The superintendent he believed to be a good man, but there was something wrong. An examination of the reports showed that it cost $3.80 a week to care for a patient, while in his county, just across the river, the care of the poor only cost $1.50. He was told, too, he did not vouch for its truth, that more was paid for every article of food and clothing used in the hospital, than in any other public institution in the State. He hoped that an investigation would be ordered, and that it would be no whitewashing affair, but go to the very bottom, strike whom it might.

Senator Morton said the institution asked $112,000 last year. The State gave it $100,000, and it is now before the Legislature asking for a deficiency of $12,500. This was not the first time he had heard grave charges against the institution, especially in reference to its financial management. As items of extravagance, he said he had been told that the State was charged with $5.00 for a cat and $13.00 for a terrier dog. These charges, he thought, should be investigated by a special committee, the investigation going into the entire management of the institution. He had not a doubt if such an investigation was had, a rotten condition of things would be developed.

Senator Edgerton acknowledged the gravity of the charges, and agreed that they ought to be investigated thoroughly, but until the Republican side of the House had shown a disposition to shirk an investigation, or to cover up any derelictions, it should not be held responsible. He noticed the names of two old Democrats on the hospital committee, but he had never seen a minority report from them indicating, much less ascertaining any of the irregularities now charged. He closed by moving a special committee, with Senator Doran as chairman.

Senator Morton disclaimed any intention to reflect upon the standing committee. What he wanted was a committee especially for this investigation and one that would go to the bottom.

Senator Edgerton knew of no better man to head such a committee than Senator Doran.

Senator Doran, recurring to the management of the institution, said that every year the ex penses of the institution were increased, until they had become so enormous as to excite general comment. This being the case the Republican party, who controlled the government, was responsible for not ordering an investigation to see if the increase was caused by the necessities of the case or extravagance. He repeated his assertion that he believed the management of the institution was rotten, and believed the Governor ought to remove the barnacles at once. But he had no desire to be on the committee. His friend Edgerton was an honest man, and he would trust the investigation to him with perfect confidence that he would go to the bottom.

Senator J. B. Gilfillan said the Republican party never shirked investigation into an alleged wrong. Rather, they courted it, as the party represented in this body now courted investigation in this case. But, in his opinion, they should go slow and act considerately. All would remember the hue and cry raised over alleged irregularities by a recent State auditor, the long and expensive investigation which followed, resulting in his acquittal. He did not think any Senator would say but what that investigation was made as thorough as one of the ablest Democratic lawyers in the State could make it. But while advising moderation, he was decidedly in favor of a thorough investigation, and to the end that such might be secured, he would suggest that the President appoint a majority of the committee from the minority party.

Senator Pillsbury held that it was the duty of Senator Doran to serve on the committee. The charges, if true, should be exposed.

Senator Doran stated that he knew nothing of his own knowledge, only by report and by inference drawn from the figures given in the report of the cost of care of patients, etc. These charges he had before called che attention of the Senator to, while every Senator had the same information.

Senatar C. D. Gilfillan called attention to the fact that such an investigation as ought to be had could not be made during the remainder of the session, and he suggested that the committee be given further time, with instructions to report to the Governor.

Senator Henry did not think the charge of extravagance applied to this State institution alone, and thought the investigation should embrace them all.

Some further desultory consideration ensued, when Senator Edgerton's motion, amended to make the committee consist of five, with Senator Doran as chairman, was adopted, and the matter was dropped.

A Republican Chairman, That Accounts For It.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Comptroller Olcott has placed in the hands of the Governor a report giving abstracts of bills alleged to have been collected from insurance companies by Superintendent of Insurance Smyth, without the comtroller's audit. A special from Albany says the Governor has decided to suspend Smyth, and prefer charges against him for dereliction of duty. Smyth is chairman of a Republican State central committee, and this determination of the Governor, where known among Republicans, has created great excitement.

Superintendent Smyth, in answer to a communication from Governor Robinson, citing him to appear to-morrow and reply to the charges of Comptroller Olcott, declines on the ground that he has recently fully explained all the charges to a committee of the Senate.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE VOTES TO RESTORE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Minnesota's Senators Divide---The House Unseats Darrell and Admits Acklin, from Louisiana---Silver Bill to be Taken Up To-Morrow.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Senator Cockrell submitted a resolution instructing the Commissioner on Agriculture to furnish to the Senate such information and facts as may be in his possession relating to the disease of hogs, commonly called hog cholera, with such suggestions as he deems pertinent. Agreed to.

Senator Sargent, from the committee on naval affairs, reported an amendment to the Senate bill to organize a life saving and coast guard service. Placed on the calendar. The bill provides for the transfer of this service from the treasury to the navy department. The Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to a request for information regarding the condition of the service on the North Carolina coast, recommended an increase in the number of stations, men and months' service, and of their salaries.

Senator Allison presented a resolution of the Burlington (Iowa) board of trade protesting against the re-imposition of the income tax. Referred.

Bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Senator Bayard—To authorize bondholders and creditors of railroad corporations to elect receivers in all courts of equity now pending or that may hereafter be brought in courts of the United States.

By Senator Oglesby—To provide for indemnity to the several States under the acts of Congress, approved March 2d, 1855, and March 3d, 1857, relating to swamp and overflowed lands.

Senator Wallace presented a petition of the city authorities of Erie, Pa., tendering the government certain ground in that city for a public building. Referred.

Senator Bailey presented a petition of citizens of Memphis, favoring the coinage of a silver dollar of the value of the present gold dollar, and that it may be made a legal tender to the extent of twenty dollars.

In the morning hour consideration was resumed of the bill to regulate the compensation of postmasters and for other purposes and Senator Hamlin submitted an amendment as an additional section providing that the President and Vice President of the United States, Senators and Representatives and delegates in Congress, the secretary of the Senate and clerk of the House of Representatiues, may send and receive free through the mails all written and printed communications, not exceeding twelve ounces in weight. After a brief discussion as to the propriety of restoring the franking privilege the amendment was agreed to—Yeas 33, nays 21, as follows:

YEAS.

Allison,	Edmunds,	McDonald,
Beck,	Garland,	Matthews,
Burnside,	Grover,	Morgan,
Butler,	Hamlin,	Paddock,
Cameron, Pa.,	Harris,	Ransom,
Chaffee,	Hoar,	Saunders,
Christiancy,	Ingalls,	Spencer,
Conkling,	Johnson,	Teller,
Conover,	Jones, Fla.,	Windom
Davis, W. Va.,	Kirkwood,	Withers—32.
Dorsey,	Lamar,	

NAYS.

Bailey,	Eaton,	Oglesby,
Bayard,	Eustis,	Plumb,
Booth,	Ferry,	Sargent,
Cameron, Wis.,	McCrary,	Saulsbury,
Cockrell,	McMillan,	Voorhees,
Coke,	Merriman,	Wadleigh,
Davis, Ills.,	Morrill,	Wallace—21

Mr. Patterson, who would have voted for the amendment, was paired with Armstrong, who would have voted against it.

An amendment by Senator Hamlin extending the provisions of the act of March 3d, 1877, for free transmission of official mail matter to all officers of the United States government except pension agents and those who receive a fixed allowance as compensation for their services, including expenses for postage, was agreed to without division. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

Senator Bayard called up the House bill for relief of the Eagle & Phœnix Manufacturing company, of Columbus, Ga., which was discussed briefly and passed.

Senator Anthony submitted a resolution that Monday next at 1 o'clock the Senate will proceed to consider bills on the calendar not objected to, and that such consideration be continued from day to day until the end of the calendar shall have been reached, speeches upon such bills to be under five minutes. Agreed to.

The Senate then resumed consideration of the unfinished business, being the bill to annul an act of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Wyoming, to provide for the organization of Crook and Pease counties, and to provide for holding court therein, approved by the Governor of said Territory on the 13th of December, 1877. The act of the Legislative Assembly referred to, after providing for the organization of the counties named, to constitute the third judicial district of the State, assigned Associate Justice Wm. Ware Peck as judge of said district, removing him from his former district.

A lengthy debate followed, which was participated in by Senators Edmunds, Davis of Illinois, Teller, Paddock, Howe, Saunders, Dawes, Hoar and others. During the discussion it was stated that Judge Peck had been removed from his district and assigned to Crook and Pease counties, inhabited only by Indians, because his administration of justice was distasteful to certain bad people in the Territory who influenced the Legislature to make the change.

Senator Paddock stated that Judge Peck was one of these gentlemen who parted his name in the middle and seemed to think he was an apostle sent to reform the people of that Territory. He was pretentious and put on airs not acceptable to the people of Wyoming.

Senator Conkling said Judge Peck lived long in the State of New York. He was a lawyer in good repute and large instruction. Knowing him and his family, he, Conkling, must say that he never heard before nor did he suspect that Judge Peck deserved such appellations as the Honorable Senator from Nebraska, (Paddock), had bestowed upon him. He knew Judge Peck to be a well instructed lawyer, a pure and upright man.

Senator Edmunds said he had known Judge Peck personally for more than thirty years. He was an honored, respected citizen and skilled in the law. For the last twenty years he had resided in the city of New York and had been recommended for the position now held by him by a number of the leading members of the bar of the city of New York, among whom he had lived. In Wyoming one of the delegates in the Territorial Legislature and a lawyer who practised before Judge Peck, was fined by the judge for contempt of court, and it immediately came to be understood that Judge Peck would hear of the matter. Afterwards upon assembling of the Legislature. Senator Edmunds defended the administration of Judge Peck, and said under it many rum sellers, gamblers and robbers had been punished.

The bill was then read the third time and passed.

On motion of Senator Wallace, the Senate took up the bill introduced by him to authorige a long bond for investment of savings, so that it should come up as unfinished business to-morrow.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Immediately after reading of the journal Mr. Harris called up the contested election case of Acklin vs. Darrel, from the fourth Louisiana district.

A short discussion arose as to the right of Clymer to reply to the speech made yesterday by Mr. Garfield.

Mr. Bland asked if it was in order to move to go to the Speaker's table in order to reach the silver bill. The Speaker replied it was not.

Mr. Bland then said he should object to all debate that was not of the regular order.

Mr. Stephens said he would, at the end of Mr. Clymer's speech, move to postpone the election ease, for it had not been discussed at all, and take up the business on the Speaker's table.

Mr. Foster suggested that the gentleman make that motion now. Mr. Clymer having been refused the floor.

Mr. Stephens made his motion to go to the business on the Speaker's table.

The Speaker remarked that there would first have to be a morning hour, but he would recognize the gentleman to make the motion to postpone at the end of the speech made by Mr. Price on the election case. That gentleman then addressed the House in favor of Darrell.

Mr. Price was followed by Mr. Candler, in favor of the claims of Acklin.

At the end of Candler's speech, Mr. Stephens said he would not make his motion to-day to go to the business on the Speaker's table, but that that motion would be made to-morrow by Mr. Bland, author of the measure, immediately after the morning hour.

Mr. Leonard then spoke in favor of the claims of Darrell.

Messrs. Potter and Ellis also favored the claims of Acklin. The latter in the course of his speech alluded to the fact that new light was breaking in upon the negroes of the South, that they were deserting the false god of radicalism, and predicted that in 1880 the race would be seen voting with the Democratic party.

Mr. Reed—We saw it done before at the muzzle of a shot gun.

Mr. Ellis declined to be drawn into any political dispute until he had finished his speech on the election case. In the conclusion of his speech he referred to the letter published yesterday from Madison Wells. There could be no better or more truthful photograph of Wells than he had given of himself. It was a self-drawn portrait, drawn in colors exuding from a heart as black as ever beat in mortal bosom. He (Ellis) could call up witness after witness to show the duplicity and wickedness of Madison Walls, but he would not do so, nor would he go into the history of Anderson, who for cheating at cards had received the sobriquest of "Keno Anderson." Yet he would not punish them. He would say to them, "Go, live in merited oblivion and obscurity and disgrace." He had no feeling of revenge against them; but he appealed to the gentlemen to leave the State of Louisiana alone. She wanted rest and peace and quiet. For eight years she had done the bidding of the Republican party; but to-day the shining robes of constitutional liberty enveloped her form, and the sceptre of self-government was in her fearless hand. But she would wield it justly and her great warm heart would not beat irresponsive to the call of magnanimity or the demands of mercy. Her hand was outstretched for conciliation, and her heart was throbbing for peace, and if that hand were grasped and peace given her, then, indeed, would the dream of the fathers of the constitution be realized—of a union which they had fought for in war and pleaded for in peace.

Messrs. Thornbury, of Tennessee, and Williams, of Wisconsin, spoke in favor of the contestee, after which a vote was taken on the minority resolution declaring Darrall duly etected, and it was rejected—yeas 115, nays 139, a party vote, with the exception of Cox, of Ohio, who voted with the Democratic majority.

The resolution declaring Acklin elected was adopted without division. Mr. Acklin then appeared at the bar of the House and was sworn in, taking the iron-clad oath.

Adjourned.

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE.

One of Those Claims Adjourns the Assembly--The Democrats make a Good Selection for Additional Judge of the Supreme Court.

[Special Telegram to THE GLOBE.]

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 20.—In the Assembly to-day the bill fixing the time for holding special terms of court in the sixth judicial circuit as concurred in; the bill providing for biennial sessions was further postponed till Tuesday next. Martin's old claim came up, and pending discussion, the assembly adjourned.

In the Democratic legislative caucus for nomination of a candidate for supreme court judge, Senator Paul was chosen chairman and Assemblyman Holzerhaver secretary. On the eighth ballott

JUDGE HARLAN S. ORTON,

of Madison, was nominated, receiving twenty-six votes to twenty-one for E. H. Ellis, of Green Bay, and four scattering. The announcement of the selection of Judge Orton was received with applause. Both parties are highly elated over the selection for the additional judges of Taylor and Orton.

The Southern Trans-continental Railway Project.

The sub-committee of four members of the House committee on the Pacific railway, charged with the preliminary consideration of various measures respecting southern trans-continental railroad communication, to-day reported to the full committee, a substitute for all pending bills. This substitute embodies all the main features of the bill introduced by Representative Stephens, in aid of the Texas Pacifiic Railway company. It provides that the eastern terminus shall be on the east bank of the Mississippi river, not further north than Memphis, nor below Vicksburg, the precise point of crossing, however, to be determined by a commission of engineers. No provision is made for any branches, and the aid proposed for the main line from Fort Worth to San Diego is as follows: The government is to guarantee the payment of five per cent. interest on bonds to be issued, to an amount not exceeding $20,000 per mile for 1,150 miles, and not exceeding $35,000 per mile for the remaining 250 miles of road traversing the mountainous country. The sub-committee make as a new feature a provision that 10,000,000 acres of land in Arizona and New Mexico, heretofore granted to the company, shall revert to the United States, to be sold by the government, one half the proceeds of sales, together with all net earnings of the road, and the amount received from government transportation of all descriptions, to be retained in the United States treasury for payment of interest, and creation of a sinking fund. The full committee will probably act upon this report Friday next.

In Memoriam--Pius IX.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The solemn requiem mass celebrated this morning at St. Aloysius church, in memory of the late Pope, was attended by nearly 2,000 persons. Among those present were the President's family, Senators and Congressmen, and prominent officials. The floral gifts were beautiful. Prominent at the base of the pyramid was a cross four feet high composed of calla lilies, camelias, carnations and smilax, with the name of Pius IX in immortelles, the gift of the House committee on the public library.

The Silver Men's Programme.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The understanding is that Representative Bland will be recognized by the Speaker to-morrow, on a motion, to proceed with the business on the Speaker's table, and to lay aside all business in advance of the silver bill, and, following him, Representative Buckner will move to refer the bill to the committee on banking and currency, as instructed by the recent "silver union" meeting, whereupon Representative Stephens will move concurrence in the Senate amendments to the bill.

Fire in East St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—A fire broke out in East St. Louis at 3 o,clock this morning, destroying Jasper & Koeling's dry good store, Mrs. Avery Downing's millinery store, Peter Bauman's hotel and saloon, M. J. Walsh's second hand store, Henry E. Ehihardt's saloon Dr. O. P. Winten's office and residence, a public hall, the press and type, etc.. of the old East St. Louis *Press*, together with several frame structures, used as tenements. Total loss $45,000.

INDIANA DEMOCRATS.

MEETING OF THEIR STATE CONVENTION YESTERDAY.

Resolutions That Are Business-Like in Their Directness--The People's Currency Policy--Hearty Denunciation of the Great Fraud, &c.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb, 20.—The State Democratic convention met at the Metropolitan at 10 a. m. Ex-Governor Hendricks was chosen permanent chairman, with the usual number of vice presidents and secretaries. The committee on resolutions made the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

The Democracy of the State of Indiana, assembled in delegate convention, declare that the national bank notes shall be retired, and in lieu thereof, there shall be issued by the government an equal amount of treasury notes with full legal tender quality. That we are in favor of making the United States notes, commonly called greenbacks, a full legal tender in payment of all debts, public or private, except such obligations only as are by the terms of the original contract under which they were issued expressly payable in coin. That the right to issue paper money as well as coin is the exclusive prerogative of the government, and such money should be issued in such amounts as the sound business interests of the public may from time to time require.

We are in favor of such legislation by Congress as will authorize the taxation by the States of United States notes in common with all money.

We deem it unwise and inexpedient to enact any further legislation for the funding of the national debt abroad, through the means of home syndicates or other methods; and we believe the true policy of the government and the best interests of the people, would be subserved by legislation so as to distribute said debt among our people at home, awarding them the benefit and practicable opportunities for the investment of their savings in the funding debt of the United States.

We are in favor of such legislation which shall fix the legal rate of interest at not exceed ing 6 per centum per annum.

We demand the restoration of the silver dollar of 412½ grains to the coinage of the country and with full legal tender quality, in payment of all debts, both public and private, and that the coinage thereof shall be unlimited and upon the same terms and conditions as may be provided for the coinage of gold.

We are in favor of the immediate and unconditional repeal of the resumption act.

We are in favor of the most rigid economy in public expenditures and we declare that the fees and salaries of all public officers should be reduced.

We are in favor of the repeal of the bankrupt act.

We sincerely deplore the recent violent collisions between labor and capital, and to prevent the recurrence thereof and to protect the future public order and security. We believe that the wages of employes of corporations engaged in the business of mining, manufacturing and transportation should be a first lien upon the property, receipts and earnings of said corporations, and that said lien shall be declared, defined and enforced by appropriate legislation.

We favor the passage of a law for the ventilation of coal mines, one that would be just to the miner and the owner.

The Democratic party is the friend of the common school system and will in every legitimate way labor for its success, and will oppose any attempt to devote any portion of the common school fund to any sectarian purpose.

The last apportionment of the State for legislative purposes was grossly unjust and dishonorable, and we demand that the next Legislature in apportioning the State for legislative purposes, as will be their imperative duty, shall have regard alone to population and continuity of territory.

The jurisdiction claimed and exercised by the circuit courts of the United States over questions of corporate and individual rights arising under the laws of the States, tends to oppress and burden litigants to such an extent as to amount to a practical limit of justice in many cases, and we consider the legislation which has conferred such jurisdiction as unwise and hurtful to the true interest of the people, and we demand such legislation as will restrict and limit the jurisdiction of such courts to such matters as are clearly contemplated by the constitution, expressed in the judiciary act of 1789.

We are opposed to class legislation, and protest against the granting of subsidies by the federal government, either in lands, bonds, money, or by the pledge of the public credit.

We abhor and hold up to public detestation the leaders in the Republican party who secretly connived and with barefaced effrontery carried out the scheme by and through venal returning boards whereby Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks, the people's choice for President and Vice President, were wrongfully kept out of the positions to which a free people had called them. We hold it up as the monster crime of the age, a crime against free government, a crime against the elective franchise, and a crime that can only be condoned when the malefactors who seated a fraud in the Presidential chair are driven from power and consigned to everlasting infamy by the people whom they have outraged, and we denounce the act of the President of the United States in appointing to high and lucrative positions the corrupt members of the returning boards, and condemn the acts of federal officers in attempting to interfere with the rights and powers of the State courts in the prosecution of these crimes.

Our senators and representatives in Congress are hereby requested to secure the passage of a law giving to the soldiers of the Mexican war a pension similar to that now given soldiers of the war of 1812.

THE NOMINATIONS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb 20.—The following nominations were made by the Democratic State convention this afternoon: For secretary of State, James K. Henklen of Vanderburg county. For auditor of State, M. D. Maroon of Montgomery county. For treasurer of State, Wm. Fleming of Allen county. For attorney general, Thomas W. Woolen of Johnson county. For superintendent of public instruction, J. W. Smart, the present incumbent, of Allen county.

HENDRICK'S SPEECH.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 20.—Governor Hendricks, in his speech to-day, said: One of the Louisiana criminals has been tried and convicted. The President and John Sherman say he should not have been tried. Why not? His guilt and that of others is shown by the verdict. It is a high crime against the nation and threatening the stability of free institutions. What are the relations between the President and Mr. Sherman and the accused that authorize or permit an effort on their part to influence judicial proceedings in a State Court. After a long and terrible contest it is settled that the State elections and State Legislatures must be free from military influence and control. So also it must be understood that the President and his cabinet cannot, directly or indirectly, interfere with judicial proceedings under State authority. State courts must be wholly free and independent of federal control, except where the constitution and laws give to the federal judiciary an appellate supervision. It is to be regretted that the acts developed upon the trial are of such a character as to create anxiety on the part of the President and many of his cabinet, but they cannot avoid the effect upon the public mind of an exhibition of that anxiety and of unseemly denunciation of the State authorities. Whilst it is true that the title of Mr. Hayes to the office of President and of Mr. Wheeler to the office of Vice President has been settled under the solemn forms of law, and whilst it is our duty, in my judgment, to recognize the title because it is in the interest of public stability and tranquility to do so it is none the less true that an imperative duty demands that fitting punishment should be visited upon the public criminals through whose flagitous crime that judgment was obtained. Because a judgment is final and conclusive forms no reason why immunity should be granted to the criminal through whose perjury it was obtained. If this is true of a simple property judgment, rendered in a court of law, much more is it true of a monstrous crime against the elective sovereignty of a nation. The very fact that it was successful furnishes the strongest reason why the condign punishment of the perpetrators should cover it with perpetual infamy and manifest to all future conspirators against the liberties of the nation the danger of attempting its repetition.

Since the inauguration of President Hayes, I have regarded the repeal of the resumption law as hopeless. He was pledged to resumption. Every vote for him was a vote for resumption. If John Sherman, at the head of the treasury, holds the position, he will enforce the strictest and hardest execution of the law, and it is understood that every bill to repeal the clause will now be vetoed. I have heretofore said that in my belief the resumption law has been the source of the greatest calamity to the business interests and prosperity of the country. It has had the effect of causing men to hoard greenbacks and the banks to withhold their circulation, in the fear of being crushed by a forced redemption in gold. A favorable foreign trade has promoted a return to specie payments, and if the balances shall continue in our favor, I expect to see our paper at par with gold at an early day.

Will the restoration of silver money mitigate the evils of the contraction caused by the resumption law? That is now the hope of the business men of Indiana. It is not a cheap money that the people demand or its restoration, but it is a legal tender and coin contemplated by the constitution. When restored it will become again a standard and measure of value. Before its demonetizstion silver was at par with gold, and when restored I think will rise again to the same level. I need hardly say to you that the value of any class or description of property greatly depends upon the import ant uses to which it may be applied. Silver was money. They stripped it of that, its most important use, and now say it is worth eight per cent. less thau before, and therefore it cannot be good money. Is that fair argument? As a material for the manufacturer of wares silver will have only the values which that use can give it; but when stamped with the quality of money and made a legal tender for the payment of all classes of indebtedness, it becomes the active agent of trade and commerce, measures values and discharges debts, and in such use becomes correspondingly more important to society and more valuable. Were gold stripped of the quality of money what would be the effect upon its value? I do not believe the penny weight of gold in the beautiful wine cup is as useful to society nor as valuable as the same weight of gold in the stamped coin which does its busy work in the channels of trade, and the demonetization of gold would demonstrate that fact. I have before said that silver has become an important product of this country, and in as much as the world recognized it as a money medium of exchange; I cannot see why we should not utilize our large product of that metal to the greatest extent that may be found practicable. Its value as money to this country is too great to be thrown away. Should experience prove that because of the increased production of silver there will be a permanent and important difference between silver and gold, Congress is clothed with ample power to provide the proper and adequate remedy.

It is objected to the restoration of silver money that it will be in bad faith towards the public creditors. If I thought that possible I would not favor restoration, however important to our interests I might esteem it. My judgment is so entirely satisfied that I have no anxiety upon that question. The question is settled by the fair reading of the public credit act of 1869 and the refunding act of 1870. At the date of the former act it was lawful to pay the five-twenty bonds in treasury notes but it was contended that because of the circumstances attending the creation of the debt it would not be proper to construe the laws and that payment ought not to be made in paper. To remove the doubt and settle all controversy the act was passed. It pledged the faith of the United States to payment in coin. I opposed the measure in the Senate as its effect would be to make the law to read that the debt shall be paid in coin. The bill passed and became a law. Thereupon the debt became payable only in coin—not in gold coin alone, but in silver coin as well, for the silver dollar was then a part of the coin of the country, as honored in law and commerce as gold. Next came the law of July 14th, 1870, to refund the national debt. That act provided for the issue of new bonds to the amount of $1,500,000,000 bearing 4, 4½ and 5 per cent. interest. The bonds so to be issued were to be exchanged for the outstanding 5-20 bonds, par for par, or sold for coin, and the proceeds were to be used in redeeming the 5-20 bonds. In the first section of the law it was provided that the new bonds should be made redeemable in coin at the present standard value. That law, gentlemen, had no uncertain meaning. The new bonds were to be substituted for all the outstanding 5-20 bonds. They were to be sold for coin, and it was to be made a part of their language that they shall be redeemable in coin of the present standard value.

My views on this subject were recently considered of sufficient importance by a distinguished citizen of New York, to call for a review and answer by himself. He had unquestionably given the phraseology of the laws relative to the bonds a closer study than I had, for it was in the line of his business, of his profits. I had examined these laws with no professional or business purpose, but only as a citizen interested in the financial policy of the country. He found it useful to his argument to show, if possible, that the law under which the public debt was being refunded, required the bonds to be paid in gold. He used this language: "Yet I am supported by the opinion of illustrious lawyers in the land, that gold payments of the debt are required and assured by the refunding act of 1870 itself which, indeed, mentions generally coin in its first section, but then in its fifth section, to carry out the act, excludes silver and specifically commands the Secretary of the Treasury to receive only gold coin as the coin of deposit and payment." I am sure it will astonish you after having this passage read, to learn that the fifth section has nothing whatever to do with the provisions and sales of the new bonds. It provides for this and no more, that the Secretary of the Treasury might for two years receive gold on deposit and issue gold certificates bearing a low rate of interest, and that the deposit might be withdrawn at any time after thirty days, upon ten days' notice, and that 25 per cent. should be retained in the treasury to pay the certificates and the residue used to redeem the 5-20 bonds. I was criticised by this gentleman for using the words gold and coin as synonomous in a public speech. Yet to maintain his argnment, he asks that it be believed that coin and gold coin are loosely used in the same sense in different sections of one of the most important laws of the United States. Gold certificates were to issue only upon gold deposits, but in the second section the bonds were to sell for coin and in the first section they were to be redeemable in coin of the present standard value. The solemn assurance given by that law to the public creditor was that the bonds issued under it should be redeemable in gold and silver of the weight and fineness then fixed by law.

Upon this subject I have no new opinions to express. In my letter accepting the St. Louis nomination for Vice President, I said gold and silver are the real standard of value, and indeed I would rejoice if our supply of the precious metals were sufficient for the wants of our trade and commerce. But we all know that it is insufficient, and we also have a paper currency, and therefore I have opposed the policy of a forced resumption of specie payments based upon contraction by withdrawing the treasury notes from circulation. The treasury note has been a safe currency, and the people have had confidence in it and have not asked for its redemption. Whilst it is a safe currency it also is a cheap currency, in the sense that it does not represent an interest-bearing obligation of the government. In that respect and in the respect that it is a legal tender, it is a better currency than the national bank note. Because of these views I have urged the repeal not only of the resumption clause, but also of the provision that sought to substitute bank notes for outstanding treasury notes.

No higher duty rests on the legislation of this country than the prompt and final settlement of financial questions upon a right and permanent basis. From the farm and the shop and the market place, comes the earnest appeal for a final decision that, as far as may be, finance may be taken from politics, so that under a stable adjustment confidence and prosperity may return to every interest.

CAPITAL AFFAIRS.

PROPOSAL TO TAKE AWAY OUR RAILROAD GRANTS.

Important Action of the Export Trade Convention--Appointment of Receivers at Benson and St. Cloud--Action of the Committees, &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The House committee on public lands to-day agreed to report to the House a bill

FORFEITING ALL LAND GRANTS

to the following named railroads, with a recommendation that it be printed and recommitted for consideration of the committee. The railroads named are the Nothern Pacific, Texas Pacific, Atlantic & Pacific, Oregon Central, Hastings & Dakota, St. Paul & Pacific, Saint Vincent Extension & Brainerd Branch, Wisconsin Central, North Wisconsin, Houghton & Ontonagon, Detroit & Milwaukee, Little Rock & Fort Smith, St. Louis & Iron Mountain, New Orleans, Baton Rouge & Vicksburg, North Louisiana & Texas, Florida & Gulf Central, Pensacola & Georgia, Alabama & Chattanooga, Crose & Chattanooga, Mobile & Girard, Coosa & Tennessee, Alabama & Florida, and Gulf and Ship Islands. It is estimated this bill if passed will restore to the public domain about one hundred million acres of land.

The committee olso agreed to

REPORT FAVORABLY

upon the following bills: For restoration to the market of certain lands in the territory of Utah; which provides that the secretary of the interior may offer for sale the present Indian reservations in Utah territory and to settle the Indians of said territory in the Minta valley, and that such reservation be restored to the public domain for disposition as other lands.

To restore all vacant unappropriated lands heretofore withdrawn for the Mississippi & Missouri railroad, in the State of Iowa, situated more than twenty miles from the amended line of route, and that all actual settlers now residing on said lands, be permitted to enter, not exceeding 160 acres for each head of family or single man over 21 years of age.

Granting additional lands to Arkansas for the use of schools.

And equalizing the bounties of soldiers who served in the late war for the Union.

The Export Trade Convention.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The export trade United States convention after much discussion adopted the annexed resolutions:

First—All interests in the country demand maintenance or enlargemnt of ocean steamship lines between the United States and all places that can offer a market for our products, because the products of our forests, of our soil, of mines and of mills demand the largest outlet that can be obtained for them.

Second—That public policy no less than national pride demands that such lines shall be, as far as may be, American built, American owned and American sailed.

Third—That wherever a discriminating charge or charges are made against export from the United States or against American vessels, efforts should be made speedily to remove all such discriminations.

Fourth—That for promotion of American steamship lines to foreign countries a general law ought to be passed by Congress providing, under proper restrictions, for mileage compensation for sea carriage of mails between the United States and foreign ports in American steam vessels—first, because such a policy is in harmony with the practice of the United States in its internal postal service; second, because the experience of all foreign commercial nations has proved the policy of liberal mail pay to be effective in the creation of new lines and often to be necessary for the maintenance of old ones; third, because such nations still adhere to the same policy wherever the conditions in which their lines are placed call for its continuance; and fourth, because such steamships may become valuable adjuncts to the navy in case of war.

Joseph Brown, of St. Louis, offered a resolution calling upon the general government to make liberal appropriations for improvement of the great waterways of the country. Adopted.

Mr. Reese, of Pittsburgh, moved the appointment of a committee to form a national export board of trade, to continue the business of the convention after adjournment. The chair appointed Walker, of Massachusetts, Reese and Wetherell, of Pennsylvania, Seth Law, Jr., of New York, and Hayes, of Detroit, Mich.

Resolutions were presented by Mr. Hayes to the following effect and adopted unanimously: That the convention considers the establishment of a department of commerce of vital importance to the business of the country; that the convention views with alarm the 21st section of the new tariff bill, and will use all honorable means to induce Congress to eliminate it from the act.

Adjourned *sine die.*

Immediately after adjournment the convention proceeded to

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION,

where they were received in the East room by President Hayes, the members being introduced by Gov. Lippett and Elliot Clowdoin. Gov. Lippett stated the object of the convention, saying that it was from no personal or selfish motive that they sought the executive influence, but it was in consequence of the great suffering of business men during the past four years, and they desired that commerce particularly should be opened so as to give the country additional markets for its productions.

President Hayes replied that he could speak only generally upon the matter, but he heartily concurred in the purposes that brought the convention together; that the present outlook of business did not present many encouraging features, but he thought that the disposition was manifested, especially in South America and our sister country, Mexico, to extend commerce and friendly relations.

A visit was then paid to Secretary Evarts, at the State Department after which the gentlemen separated.

Minnesota and Other Appointments.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The President nominated Wm. H. Greenleaf, receiver of public moneys at Benson, Minnesota; Wm. B. Mitchell, receiver of public moneys at St. Cloud, Minnesota; and John C. Davis, of Indiana, register of the land office at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The President has appointed as honorary commissioners to the Paris Exposition, Osborn R. Heath and John M. Gregory, of Illinois.

Miscellaneous.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The House committee on elections to-day referred the contested election case of Frost against Metcalf, from the third Missouri district, to a sub-committee, Messrs. Cobb, Chandler and Hiscock, with instructions to examine the papers, and report whether or not there are sufficient grounds for a contest to warrant the further consideration of the committee.

The House committee on railroads and canals to-day heard the closing arguments on the bill providing for an appropriation of $1,000,000 to make a ship canal of the Dismal Swamp of Virginia and North Carolina.

Rear Admiral Daniel Ammen has prepared a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, requesting to be placed on the retired list. Captain Earl English will succeed Admiral Ammen as chief of the bureau of navigation.

The House committee on military affairs to-day examined Adjutant General Townsend in the line of investigation looking to a reduction of the army.

Southwick Guthrie, cashier of the United States treasury has resigned, to take effect the 31st of March. Guthrie has been connected with the treasury fifteen years. Assistant Cashier Whelply is performing the duties of cashier temporarily. It is understood Guthrie's resignation was desired, although no charges have been preferred against him.