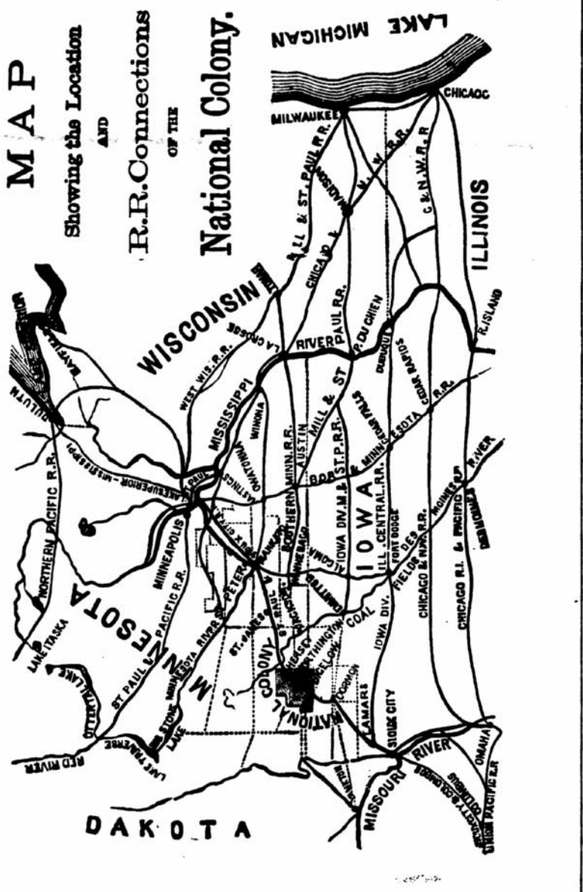
Historical Society

# The Worthington Advance.

VOL V — WORTHINGTON NOBLES CO., MINN., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1877. — NO. 22.

150,000 Acres of Land for Sale on Long Time and Small Payments, by the

## NATIONAL COLONY




*The National Colony.*

The national colony is located in Southwestern Minnesota and Northwestern Iowa. It comprises twelve townships of land in Nobles county, Minnesota, and three and one half townships in Osceola county, Iowa, the land being undulating prairie, watered by streams and lakes, and having a soil of sandy loam from two to four feet in depth. There are twenty townships of land in Nobles county, and it is admitted on all hands that this county lies in the very heart of what is called the "CREAM OF THE PRAIRIES." Southwestern Minnesota, by general consent, long since took the name of the "GARDEN OF THE STATE."

*Lakes.*

There are some fifty lakes, great and small, in Nobles county. The principal ones are Lakes Okabena, Ocheeda, Indian Lake, and Graham Lakes. Within a radius of eight miles of Worthington there are over twenty-four miles of lake front.

*Stock Growing.*

The numerous lakes and the luxuriant grasses of this region adapt it to stock-growing in an eminent degree, and a number of settlers are arranging to engage in stock-growing, dairying and cheese-making The dry winters and fine climate are exceedingly favorable to the health of all kinds of stock. Beef cattle grown here can be delivered in Chicago for less money than by stock-growers living within twenty miles of that city. Two cheese factories now in operation in the county.

*Railroads.*

Two railroads now in operation to Worthington. The Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad runs in a southwesterly direction across Nobles county, keeping the people in daily communication with both St. Paul, distant 177 miles, and Sioux City, distant 92 miles. The Worthington and Sioux Falls Railroad extends westward to Lu Verne and will soon be completed to Sioux Falls. Preparations are now making to extend the Southern Minnesota to Worthington within the next year. Another proposed road is a narrow-gauge coal road to the Iowa coal fields, which will, in due time, no doubt be built. Another road is projected from Sioux City to Worthington by way of the Rock River Valley. The Southern Minnesota Company contemplates building a branch northwest from Worthington to Pipestone county.

*Towns and Villages.*

There are three villages in the county, all of which are railroad stations, viz: Worthington, Bigelow and Hersey.

*Worthington*

Is the county seat, and is a thriving town, drawing trade from nine of the surrounding counties. It is situated on West Okabena Lake, a beautiful sheet of water, having a circumference of about six miles, and presenting upon its shores many elevated sites for residences. It furnishes sand, gravel, boulders, ice and water in abundance for the town, to say nothing of boating, fishing, gunning, etc. The business of the town is represented by over twenty stores, five hotels, several lumber yards, fuel yards, meet markets, livery stables, etc., and one large steam flouring mill and two weekly newspapers. The professions are represented by three physicians, two dentists, and four lawyers. There are five church organizations in the place, viz.: Union Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Disciples. The Congregationalists and Presbyterians both have neat church edifices, and the Methodists own the large building known as Methodist Block, containing Miller Hall, in which they hold services. The various societies are represented by a Masonic Lodge, a Good Templar Lodge, and a Post of the Grand Army.

Worthington has a good graded school, with three departments, on the Independent District plan. A fine School Building has been erected.

In culture and character, the people of Worthington are admitted to be far superior to those of frontier towns generally. The temperance feature of the Colony, which excludes the liquor traffic, has attracted the better class and excluded the more vicious class of settlers. We know of no place in the west where an investment in town lots will pay better

BIGELOW is a thriving village located some ten miles south-west of Worthington near the Iowa line. It is a railroad station and contains several stores, shops, warehouses, etc., and a cheese factory in successful operation.

HERSEY is another railroad station and village located about eight miles north-east of Worthington. It contains a postoffice, hardware store, lumber yard, hotel, etc, and is located in a beautiful and fertile region, and has a promising future before it.

*Temperance and Education.*

The National Colony is founded upon a temperance and educational basis. These features entered into the original plan of Dr. A P. Miller and Professor R. F. Humiston, the founders, and were among the chief inducements which brought to this locality the intelligent class of people, who have located here. No intoxicating beverages are sold in the county. The town charter of Worthington prohibits the liquor traffic. The educational interests of the town and county are in the hands of advanced men, who appreciate the importance of superior educational facilities and who will have them whatever they may cost. A few years hence will witness the establishment of the Worthington Seminary upon a permanent basis. There are now about fifty school districts organized in the county.

*Climate.*

The climate of Southwestern Minnesota is probably its chief attraction. The atmosphere is dry and is almost a specific for all pulmonary and bronchial affections. Consumption and ague are unknown here, and the exhilerating air gives energy to constitutions which would succumb in a more humid climate. The abounding good health and energy of the people are a source of constant remark and congratulation.

*Advantages.*

The advantages of this region are briefly summarized as follows: Fertile soil, convenient markets, and healthful climate; superior mail, railroad, school, church and other privileges; and no ague, no consumption, no liquor traffic, no desperadoes, no Indians.

The National Colony is a community founded, like any other community, upon legitimate and recognized business and social principles, without any communism or any peculiar feature other than the exclusion of the liquor traffic.

In addition to the advantages above named, every settler upon these lands has all the benefits arising from the location here of the NATIONAL COLONY and of the constant active and efficient work of that organization, of which Miller, Humiston & Co. are the proprietors and managers.

Settlers upon these lands will be transported from Chicago, and intermediate stations, at greatly reduced rates

Descriptive Pamphlets, containing full information in regard to the Colony lands, will be sent free to any one applying personally or by letter to

MILLER, HUMISTON & CO., Worthington, Minn,

ALLEN GIBSON, National Colony Agent, 106 Fifth Av., Chicago, Ill.

Or F. C. TAYLOR, 184 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

## RECORD OF THE NEWS.

### Political, Personal and Foreign Doings and Gossip.

**Review of the Markets.**

The wholesale trade has been very quiet during the past week. In the line of dry goods, domestics are still advancing. Sheetings, standard, are sold at 9c. and are held firm, while Lawrence SS are firm at 7c All leading brands of cottons have advanced from ¼ to 1c. Lonsdales and Prints are held firm at 11½c. Dark and medium prints are scarce at 7¼ for leading makes. Ginghams have advanced to 9½ for staples and 10½ for dress styles.

Flour has taken still another advance in the mills of the Northwest, straight XXXX is held at $6.50@7.00, while XXX is salable at $5.500 per bbl.

No 2, wheat may be quoted as follows: New Pork $1.48; Chicago, $1.31; Milwaukee, $1.33, St. Paul $1.30; Minneapolis $1.20.

Barley, No. 2, sells readily at 55@70c.

Butter and eggs are about as last reported, the former plenty in shipping grades, and scarce in better lots, while eggs are very scarce. As for butter, each consignor must make his own price, as scarcely two lots in a week are sotd at the same figure. Eggs sell readily at 25c. for fresh.

The following are the quotations for furs, taken from actual sales in St. Paul: Muskrat, fall, 15c; muskrat, winter, 18c; muskrat kits, 10c; mink, $2; raccoon, 80c; red fox, $1.75; otter, $8; bear, $14; bear cub, $7; beaver, Lake Superior, ℔ lb, $2.50; beaver, Western, ℔ lb, $1.50; lynx, $2.50; fisher, $10. Good qualities of dressed beef find active bidders and quick sales at 4½@5c, and very cho ice a 5@5½c, but the supply is rather limited.

Since our last review hogs have declined, they are weak at $6.75@7.00.

**Sir Stafford Northcote on the American Presidential Muddle.**

Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking at a banquet in Liverpool lately, made the following allusion to the American Presidential question: "Nobody can witness without sympathy and a certain amount of admiration the conduct of the great mass of the American people under the difficulties presented by the Presidential question. We believe they have a constitution which they are able satisfactorily and honestly to work out for themselves, and even in the present great difficulty we cannot help seeing taat they are endeavoring by honest exertion to find a constitutional solution. The matter must come to an end shortly. The settlement, I hope, will be very beneficial to the commercial condition of the United States, and therefore also to that of England. I am happy to think that good feeling exists between England and the United States in regard to the European situation." The Chancellor expressed the opinion that the moment was one of anxiety, but it was not one for anxiety that should prevail over the hope for a satisfactory result.

**A Live Corpse.**

The Omaha papers tell a horrible story to the effect that a corpse encased in a metallic coffin, which was being shipped from California, for interment at some eastern point, come to life while on the road. The express messenger affirmed that he heard sounds proceeding from the coffin, and was laughed at by the train men, but his convictions were so strong, that, upon arriving at a convenient point the case was opened, and there were signs that convinced him that the man, although dead then, had been alive since placed in the coffin. The Omaha Herald states that when the coffin arrived at its destination and was opened, unmistakable proofs of the terrible truth were discovered. The hands were clinched, the lips bitten, and the mouth filled with a bloody froth. The man had been alive and it was his moaning that had been heard by the express messenger.

**Big Haul of Counterfeit Money.**

James Brooks, of the government secret service, who caused the arrest a few days since of John McKeenan and wife, of Cincinnati, for dealing in counterfeit money, and of Miles Ogle for manufacturing the same, has induced the latter to make a confession, and by this means obtained possession of over one hundred finely executed plates. Among them were plates for the manufacture of $10 notes on the banks at Richmond, Lafayette and Muncie, Indiana. He also recovered forty thousand counterfeit fifty cent pieces, which were found buried near Brighton, a suburb of Cincinnati. These pieces so closely resembled the genuine that none but experts could distinguish the difference between them.

**The New Illinois Senator.**

The Chicago Times (Dem.) does not claim the election of Judge Davis as a party triumph,—that is, it is not a triumph of either of the party combinations labelled respectively "Republican" and "Democrat." The Times says: "Judge Davis is one of the most truly independent men in America. The Creator gave him not only a great deal of brains but a great deal of conscience and a great deal of self reliance. His opinions and judgments upon public questions are not the decrees of this or that caucus of expediency spoils-hunters; they are the opinions and judgments of David Davis, a man of brains, ideas and views, based upon sincere convictions of truth and right.

**Mixing With Mexicans.**

A Washington special states that a number of officers of the late war have determined to offer President Yglesias their services. At a conference yesterday one of their number was deputed to wait upon Yglesias and formally tender him their services. This gentleman graduated at West Point, was in the regular army when the war broke out, and was one of the principal cavalry officers of the Confederacy. He will leave immediately for St. Louis, where he hopes to meet the ex-President and his Cabinet and lay the scheme before them. He says they can easily raise 10,000 or 12,000 men in Louisiana and Texas, and would be able to sweep the Diaz forces before them.

**Routes to the Black Hills.**

Omaha, Cheyenne, Sioux City and Yankton are making extensive preparations to obtain the Black Hills travel next summer. Dr. Burleigh, of Yankton, is preparing to run two or three boats between Yankton and Fort Pierce, in the Black Hills trade, and it is said that arrangements have been made to ticket the gold seekers through from St. Louis and Chicago via Yankton to the Black Hills for about forty dollars.

**Foul Play in Kansas.**

About three weeks ago George Clark Jesse Eaton, Virgin Wright, and W. C. Powell, well known citizens of Austin, Sumner County, Kansas, left that place for Kiowa, Barbour County, with four wagons loaded with corn. Not returning at the time they weree xpected to, the opinion prevails that they were murdered by Indians, and their teams run off. The opinion is strengthened by the report that the remains of four wagons and harnesses have been found on the road by hunters, and by the fact that a party of Sioux passed through that section of the country some time ago. A number of friends of the missing men have started out in search of them.

**Sad Case of Suicide.**

The dead body of Charles Collins, chief engineer of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, was found in his house on the morning of the 20th, with the appearance of having been lifeless 24 hours. One revolver was held fast in his hand while another and a razor lay near him on the bed. It is a case of undoubted suicide by shooting. It is supposed anxiety on account of the late accident at Ashtabula had made him deranged. Mr. Collins' family was absent at the time of his suicide.

**Another Indian Massacre.**

A report is current at Fort Randall that a train of fifteen wagons and twenty men were captured on Thursday morning about 100 miles west of the Missouri River, while on the way out of the Black Hills; that not one man escaped the scalping knife. The Indian who brought the news says Crazy Horse's band committed the outrage, and the train belonged to Valin & Papinan, of Yankton.

**Cheyennes on the War Path.**

The mail carrier between Hot Creek and Red Cloud was attacked by four Indians last trip, but escaped. On the return trip he met fifty friendly Sioux, who were en route to treat with Crazy Horse for his surrender They report that a party of a hundred Cheyennes met them, and on learning their mission dismounted them, necessitating their return to the agency. Small bands have been seen at several points between here and Indian Creek.

## FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

**Proceedings of the Second Session**

On the 22d Mr. Merrimon submitted a resolution in the Senate declaring it is not within the lawful reach of the Senate to charge committees of the Senate with duties to be performed away from the capitol while Congress is in session. He said that recently one State was without representation, and twelve others with only half their usual representation. Mr. Morton addressed the Senate at length in opposition to the bill for counting the electoral vote. He believed the Republicans had conceded everything in consenting that the counting of the votes should be taken from the President of the Senate. Mr. Cameron also opposed the bill.

The House, on the 22d, defeated a resolution to inquire why the troops are being removed from the frontier. A bill was introduced by Mr. Frye to establish a court for the trial of contested elections for the office of President and Vice President. It provides that the court shall consist of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and six judges of the U. S. Circuit Court, to be selected by the Chief Justice. Mr. Hunter moved to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution to amend the constitution by providing that no claims shall ever be allowed for property lost in the rebellion, unless the person was loyal to the government—lost, 115 to 72, not two thirds.

The Senate, on the 23d, resumed consideration of the compromise bill, and Senator Sherman spoke in opposition to it, giving as one reason, that he believed it unconstitutional and a scheme by the Democrats to count in Tilden. Senator Conkling favored the passage of the measure, but denied the power of the President of the Senate to count the votes; if the constitution gave all power to one man it was not easy to see how Congress could witness or verify the act. Whatever words the President of the Senate chose to utter the two houses must listen to him. Mr. Conkling being unable to conclude his speech further consideration of the question was postponed one day.

Mr. Burtz was admitted as a member, and took the iron-clad oath, on the 23d. Mr. Seelye addressed the House at length upon the all-important question, favoring the compromise. Mr. Williams, of Wis. believed the President of the Senate had the power to count the electoral vote. Mr. Tucker made a constitutional argument in the support of the compromise. The House then adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 24th, the compromise bill was again taken up and Mr. Sargeant spoke in opposition to the bill. He argued that the power to count the electoral votes lay in the Senate, and that the compromise measure left the decision on all questions with one man, the fifth judge. He further opposed the bill because it degraded the Supreme Court, and because it invited a political party defeated by the ordinary forms, to clamor for another hearing. He said it was a surrender of Republican rights. Mr. Conkling then concluded his speech commenced the previous day. He denied that the bill was a compromise; it surrendered the rights of none. Mr. Morton said he had over 800 letters from Indiana, Ohio and other States approving his course in opposing the compromise. Mr. McDonald had been through Indiana, and the general voice of Republicans as well as Democrats favored the bill. Morton never regarded McDonald as a correct exponent of Republican principles. Senators Bayard, Christiancy, and Morrill endorsed the measure, while Blaine believes Congress does not possess the power it proposes to transfer. Senator Thurman also favored the bill.

In the House, in considering the question of privileges, Mr. McDill. of Iowa, thought the President of the Senate alone had power to count the vote. Mr. Bright thought the whole power lay with Congress and no returning board could oust its jurisdiction. The committee on Pacific railroads reported back favorably the bill for an eight years' extension to the Northern Pacific. The message of the President relating to troops in the South on election day was referred to a special commitee of 11 with power to send for persons and papers.

The Senate held an all night session on the 24th, debating the Presidential compromise bill and at 7:10 a. m. on the 25th a vote was reached and the measure adopted by a vote of 47 yeas to 17 nays. Eaton, of Connecticut, was the only Democrat voting in the the negative. The following is the vote in detail: Ayes—Alcorn, Allison, Barnum, Bayard, Bogy, Booth, Boutwell, Burnside, Chaffee, Christiancy, Cockerell, Conkling, Cooper, Cragin, Davis, Dawes, Dennis, Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Goldthwaite, Gordon, Howe, Johnston, Jones (Fla.), Jones (Nev.) Kelly, Kernan, McCreery, McDonald, McMillan, Maxey, Merrimon, Morrill, Price, Randolph, Ransom, Robertson, Saulsbury, Sharon, Stevenson, Teller, Thurman, Wallace, White, Windom, Withers and Wright—47. Nays—Blaine, Bruce, Cameron (Penn.) Cameron. (Wis.), Clayton, Conover, Dorsey, Eaton, Hamilton, Hamlin, Ingalls, Mitchell, Morton, Patterson, Sargent, Sherman and West—17.

The House immediately took in hand the electoral bill after it passed the Senate, on the 25th, and it was decided that the previous question should be called on the following day. It was also agreed that the last four hours of debate speeches should be limited to ten mintes each. The debate was opened by Mr. McCrary in favor of its passage. Mr. Hunton also advocates the measure, as did Messrs. Hoar and Hewitt and others. It was opposed by Messrs. Hale, Monroe Smith of Penn., and others. The session adjourned at 11 o'clock until 10 a. m. next day,

A bill was introduced in the Senate, on the 26th, to attach to the territory of Wyoming a portion of the Black Hills country for judicial purposes. Mr. Allison introduced a bill to extend the jurisdiction of the U. S. district and circuit courts over the Indian reservations. Mr. Windom presented the memorial of the Minnesota ligislature for setting aside the proceeds of public lands sales as a bounty for the destruction of grasshoppers.

In the House on the 26th, inst, the electoral compromise bill was debated from 10a. m. to 5 p. m. the most intense interest and excitement prevailing throughout the entire session. Messrs. Lamar, Ben Hill, Watterson, Payne, Field of N. Y. and others spoke in favor of the measure and Messrs. Hurlbut, Townsend, Knott, Vance, Dunnell, Baker of Ind., Jones of Ky., and others opposed it. Upon the vote being taken the bill was passed by 191 yeas to 86 nays. Thirty-four Republicans voted for the bill and fifty-seven Democrats voted for the bill and nineteen against it. The following is the vote in detail:

Yeas—The Speaker, Abbott, Adams, Ainsworth, Anderson, Ashe, Atkins, Bagby, Bagley, G. A., Bagley, J. H., Banning, Beebe, Bell, Bland, Bliss, Blount, Boone, Bradley, Bright, Brown, (Ky.), Buckner, Burchard, (Wis.), Burleigh, Cabell, Caldwell, (Tenn.), Caldwell, (Ala.), Campbell, Candler, Caulfield, Chapin, Chittenden, Clark, (Ky.), Clark, (Mo.), Clymer, Cochrane, Cook, Cowan, Cox, Crapo, Culberson, Cutler, Darrell, Davis, Davy, DeBolt, Dibrell, Douglas, Durand, Eden, Ellis, Faulkner, Felton, Field, Finley, Foster, Franklin, Fuller, Gause, Gibson, Glover, Goode, Goodin, Gunter, Hamilton, (Ind.), Hamilton, (N. J.), Hancock, Hardenburgh, Harris, (Mass.), Harris, (Va.) Harris, (Ga.) Harrison, Hartridge, Hartzell, Hatcher, Hathorn, Haymond, Henkle, Hereford, Hewitt, (N. Y.), Hewitt, ([Ala.), Hill, Hoar, Holman, Hooker, Hopkins, Haskins, House, Humphreys, Hunter, Hunton, Jenks, Jones, (N. H.), Kehr, Kelley, Lamar, Landers, (Conn.), Landers, (Ind.), Lane, Leavenworth, Lefloyne, Levy, Lewis, Lutterell, Lynde, Mackey, Maish, MacDougall, McCrary, McDill, McFarland, McMahon, Meade, Metcalf, Miller, Money, Morgan, Morrison, Mutchler, Neal, New, Norton, O'Brien, Oliver, Payne, Phelps, Phillipps, (Mo.), Pierce, Piper, Platt, Potter, Powell, Rea, Reagan, Reilly John, Reilly J. B., Rice, Riddle, Robbins, (Pa.), Robbins, (N. C.), Roberts, Ross, (N. J.), Sampson, Savage, Sayler, Scales, Schleicher, Seelye, Sheakley, Southard, Sparks, Springer, Stanton, Stenger, Stevenson, Stone, Strait, Swann, Tarbox, Teese, Terry, Thomas, Thompson, Throckmorton, Townsend, (Pa.), Tucker, Turney, Vance, (N. C.), Waddell, Walker, (N. Y.), Walker, (Va.), Walsh, Ward, Walling, Warren, (Conn.), Warren, (Mass.), Watterson, Wells, (Mo.), Wells, (Miss.), Whitehouse, Whitthorne, Wike, Willard, Williams, (Mich.), Williams, (Del.), Williams, W. B. (Mich.), Willis, Wilshire, Wilson, (Va.), Wilson, (Ia.), Wood, (N.-Y.), Yeates, Young.

Nays—Baker, (N. Y.), Baker, (Ind.), Ballou, Banks, Blackburn, Blair, Bradford, Brown, (Ks.), Burchard, (Ill.), Buttz, Caldwell, (Ala.), Cahcon, Carr, Casswell, Cate, Conger, Crounse, Danford, Denison, Dobbins, Dunnell, Durham, Evans, Eames, Flye, Forney Fort, Freeman, Frye, Garfield, Hale, Haralson, Hendee Henderson, Hoge, Hurd, Hubbell, Burlbut, Hyman, Jones, (Ky.) Kasson, Kimball, Knott, Lapham, Lawrence, Lynch, Magoon, Milliken, Mills, Monroe, Nash, O'Neill Packer, Page, Plaisted, Poppleton, Pratt, Purman, Rainey, Robinson, Rusk, Singleton, Simickson, Slemons, Smalls, Smith, (Pa.) Smith, (Ga.), Stowell, Thornburg, Townsend, (N. Y.), Tufts, Vance, (O.), Van Vorhes, Wait, Waldron, Wallace, (S. C.), Wallace, (Pa.), White, Whiting, Williams, (Ala.), Wood, (Pa.), Woodburn, Woodworth.

Absent—W. S. King, Collins, Egbert, Wigginton, Lord, Hayes, Bass, Stephens, Caton, Phillips, of Kansas, Schumaker, O'Dell, Ross and Wheeler.

In the Senate, on the 27th, the military academy and fortifications bill passed without discussion after being amended. The bill to ratify the agreement with certain bands of Sioux Indians was passed, also the bill extending for two years the act establishing the board of commissioners for Southern claims. A short executive session was then held and the Senate adjourned.

Mr. Knott, in the House on the 27th, made a report from the judiciary committee favoring the admission of Beltord, the Colorado representative. The Indian appropriation bill was passed. The four members of the Louisiana returning board were again presented at the bar of the House, and after being allowed half an hour for conference together, their answer was presented to the House and read. The answer disavows any disrespect or intent to evade the law; and that the papers called for by the House were required by them continually until the count was completed, when they were, as provided by law, deposited with the Secretary of State of Louisiana, where they now are. The resolution was then adopted adjudging the prisoners guilty of contempt, by a party vote; they were then ordered into the custody of the sergeant-at-arms until they should produce the required papers.

**The Compromise Bill Signed.**

President Grant signed the compromise bill for counting the electoral vote, at 10 a. m. on the 29th, and sent a special message to the Senate announcing the fact. The President in his message says he believes the bill gives assurance that the result of the election will be accepted without resistance from supporters of disappointed candidates and that the highest officer shall not hold his place with a questioned bill of right. The message also alludes to the imminent peril the country has escaped through the adoption of the act. He further declares that in no instance had the President of the Senate exercised the power of deciding disputed election returns. In such a case as this, where the result is involved in doubt, it is the duty of the law making power to provide in advance a lawful mode of settling the difficulty, as to which should receive or hold the office. No party or citizen loving their country can sacrifice too much in preserving it. True liberty and progress can only exist through cheerful obedience to constitutional law. The bill is calculated to meet the present question. The country needs and requires peace and harmony between all sections.

YOU SAY CONSUMPTION cannot be cured. It can, by this new principle, new way, Dr. J. H. McLean's cough and Lung Healing Globules. The healing gas generated when sucking them being inhaled, stops tubercular irritation and cures Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Consumption, or any diseases, Throat or Lung. Trial Boxes, by mail, 25 cts. Dr. J. H. McLean's office, 314 Chestnut St., St. Louis, Mo.

## STATE RAILROAD BONDS.

**A Proposition Made to the Legislature by the Largest Owner of the Bonds.**

Gov. Pillsbury's message treated at considerable length the subject of the old "Minnesota State Railroad Bonds," and, in accordance with his suggestion, the Legislature appointed a joint committee to consider the question, which promises to be one of the leading topics of the session. Mr. Selah Chamberlain, who holds the majority of the bonds, has appeared before that committee and submitted the following proposition:

To the Honorable Chairman of Joint Committee on State Railroad Bonds:

Coming to your State in 1858, I took a contract from two of your land-grant railroad companies to grade and prepare for the iron a portion of their roads. I performed my engagements, paid all my bills, and received as my only compensation the quota of State bonds which, by the constitution of the State, had been devoted to the performance of the work which I undertook. By these bonds the faith of the State was pledged to pay the sum of one thousand dollars for each bond in twenty-five years from date, with interest at seven per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually.

The companies to whom the bonds were originally granted, having failed to complete their roads, forfeited their charters; and the State took possession by foreclosure of the roads, with all the work which had been done on them. In consequence of the failure of the State to pay any interest on the bonds, and other causes, they soon ceased to have any marketable value. At a later period, when the State had conveyed the railroad properties to new companies composed of her own citizens, in trust, to procure the completion of the roads, I was again invited to come to the State and undertake the work. I was assured by influential citizens that as soon as the people should receive the benefits of the roads, they would discharge their obligations upon the bonds. Under the influence of these considerations, I organized a new company, and, with means and credit drawn entirely from abroad, undertook the construction of one of your leading systems of railroads, which has expanded into the present River, Iowa and Minnesota divisions of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. Meanwhile, the population of the State has grown from 150,000 in 1858 to about 700,000 in 1876, and the assessed valuation of its property from $32,000,000 in 1863 to $225,000,000 in 1876.

I have often appealed to the people of the State to redeem their pledge, and provide for the payment of their obligations. Various reasons have been assigned for neglecting to do this; among them, perhaps, the most forcible was that the railroad companies, or the lands held by them, were liable for the payment of the bonds. To determine the validity of this supposition, I instituted a suit in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Minnesota, against two of the railroad companies, which, after having been decided against me, I appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the various questions at issue were argued by the most learned and able counsel who could be procured both from within and without the State.

As a result, the highest judicial tribunal in the nation has determined that the railroad companies hold their lands free of any liens in favor of these bonds; that the bonds are a direct and primary obligation of the State, and that the State, if amenable to the process of the courts, would be compelled to pay the bonds, principal and interest, according to their terms; and finally, that he Constitution and laws devolve upon the Legislature, without submission to a vote of the people, the duty of providing for their payment. Meanwhile, amid the vicissitudes of business, I, in common with many of the creditors of the State, have become seriously incovenienced by my inability to realize anything upon this large obligation.

The question is presented whether I shall wait until the State is ready to pay the entire debt, or whether by a voluntary offer on my part to compromise the claim for a portion of the amount due, I shall induce the Legislature to make an immediate and final settlement. In view of the uncertainty of life, or the disagreeable alternative of leaving to my heirs an unsettled claim, and of the desirability of freeing myself in advancing age, from the anxieties and uncertainties incident to the situation, I have determined to adopt the latter alternative, and am now here to make a proposition so much less than my legal claim, and so manifestly advantageous to the State, that I trust I shall be met with a corresponding spirit of compromise on the part of the representatives of the people.

The bonds bear date December 1st, 1858. They are for $1,000 each, mature December 1st, 1883, and bear interest at seven per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually. The whole number issued was 2,275. On the 1st day of June, 1877, there will be due upon each bond,

| | |
|---|---|
| 37 coupons of $35 each | $1,295 00 |
| Simple interest at 7 per cent, upon coupons since they (coupons) became due | 815 85 |
| Principal of bond (unmatured) | 1,000 00 |
| | $3,110 85 |

I will surrender all the bonds I hold or control with the coupons; release the state from all further claim, waiving to the State one-half (1-2) of the amount of interest thereon, and will accept new six (6) per cent. thirty (30) year bonds, in lieu of the 7 per cent. bonds I now hold, and of the bonds so issued, will surrender twelve (12) per cent. of the entire amount to furnish the State with means to pay interest for two years, or for such other purposes as the Legislature may determine if interest is provided from other sources. The result of this proposition will be as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amount due upon each old bond June 1st, 1877 | | $3,110 85 |
| I take in new bonds for each old bond | $1,808 77 | |
| Having left with the State on each bond | 246 65 | |
| Amount conceded on each bond | 1,055 43 | |
| | | 3,110 85 |
| Total amount conceded by me on each bond | | $1,302 08 |
| To which add difference between 6 per cent and 7 per cent. bond for 6 1-2 years to maturity of debt | | 202 20 |
| Total concession on each bond | | $1,504 28 |
| Should all the outstanding bonds be returned on the same terms, the concession to the State upon the amount due June 1st, 1877 upon the rule of legal computation in such cases will amount to | | $3,422,237 00 |

A sum exceeding by $1,147,237 00 the original debt.

And now, gentlemen of the committee, with you and your colleagues of the Legislature, I leave my case. If I have failed to present my claims in a manner to warrant your favorable consideration, I can never hope to do so. In the infancy of your State, in the first year of her existence, when her people were few in numbers, without wealth or commerce, I confidingly risked my fortune on her good faith and future growth and greatness.

Her place in the constellation of States is assured and her good faith and honor I haue never assailed or doubted.

When I earned these bonds, I was in the prime of my business life—a generation has passed away—my business contemporaries have most of them gone forever, and I am admonished that my "sands" have well nigh run. I have reached a period in life which requires my business affairs to be closed even if I make sacrifices. May I not with confidence present these considerations to you, with a hope that you will appreciate them, and give my claim early and favorable consideration.

Very respectfully submitted,
S. CHAMBERLAIN.

## Minnesota Legislature.

In the Senate on the 23d, Mr. Hall introduced a joint resolution to Congress, to amend the tree culture act by reducing the amount to be planted from 40 to 10 acres on each 160 acres. A bill was introduced to enforce the payment of delinquent taxes; also a bill extending the time for the redemption of lands sold for taxes. Messrs. Hall and Williston were appointed as the Senate members of the committee to report upon a plan for a State board of equalization. The House resolution to inquire into the advisability of revising the Statutes, was concurred in. The bill fixing a punishment for the abduction of unmarried women for the purpose of prostitution was passed, also amending the law relating to horse thieves, and the memorial to Congress for a land grant for a railroad from St. Paul to Sault Ste Marie canal. The resolution endorsing the congressional compromise bill was discussed in the morning afternoon and evening sessions. The Republican Senators generally favored the compromise but opposed Mr. Lienau's resolution. Mr. Lienau's preamble was finally rejected and a second resolution offered by Senator Gilfillan was adopted. The two resolutions as passed were as follows:

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be and the same are hereby requested to give their hearty support to the bill presented by the select committee of Congress, which is "to provide for and regulate the counting of the votes for President and Vice President, and the decision of questions arising thereon."

And be it further Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to favor the passage of some measure providing for and facilitating a speedy review and determination by the proper courts of the United States of any and all questions that may grow out of or arise from any canvass of electoral votes or the declaration of the result therefof, or the installation in office of any President or Vice President in pursuance of such canvass or declared result or pursuant to any election by the respective houses of Congress.

The following was the vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Brown, Conkey, Deuell, Donnelly, Edgerton, Finseth, Folsom, Hall, Langdon, Lienau, Macdonald, McHench, Mayo, Morton, Nelson, Pohler, Renmore, Schoenbeck, Smith, James, Jr., Smith, R. I., Stacy, Swanstrom, West, Wilkinson, Williston, Yale—26.

Nays—Messrs. Bailey, Butler, Gilfillan, Robbins, Wheelock—5.

Not voting—Archibald, Armstrong, Daniels, Doran, Durlee, Edwards, Henry, McNelly, Page and Waldron.

In the House, on the 23d, the resolution introduced by Mr. Magoffin the previous day was again postponed one day. Mr. McKensie introduced a bill to reimburse Le Sueur county for expenses in the search of the the Northfield robbers; another bill was introduced to pay $500 each to Manning and Wheeler for shooting the two robbers killed in Norihfield. The bill for the annual appropriation of $15,000 for the support of the Normal schools was passed after much discussion—yeas 61, nays 36. Mr. Child's usury bill coming up in committee of the whole, was discussed at length, and after amending so that the law would allow 12 per cent. interest, but when a person shall charge more than that he shall forfeit the entire interest. The bill was recommended to pass. Messrs. Child, Gibbs and Finney supported the original bill, and Messrs. Comstock, J. M. Gilman, Scriver and G. R. Hall opposed it. The bill reducing mileage from 15 cents a mile to ten cents was indefinitely postponed.

The Senators on the 24th, had up the memorial to Congress for a constitutional amendment for the election of President by a popular vote, instead of the electoral system. The bill was opposed by Messrs. Daniels, Donnelly and James Smith, and was indefinitely postponed. Donnelly's usury bill than came up, and was supported by its author in a strong speech. The bill was also favored by Messrs. Wilkinson, Folsom, and Hall, and opposed by Messrs. Daniels, Williston Butler and Wheelock. The bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in Kanyon, Goodhue county was passed.

In the House on the 24th the bill fixing the mileage of physicians was indefinitely postponed. A bill was introduced relating to damages arising from neglected partition fences. Mr. Magoffin's resolution endorsing the Presidential compromise measure coming up, the joint resolution which passed the Senate the previous day, was substituted in its place, and supported in a running discussion by Messrs. John M. Gilman, Crooks, Wilson, Finney, Mott, Nelson, and others, and opposed by Mrssrs. Child, Comstock, and one or two others. The bill was defeated.—52 to 39, not a quorum voting in the affirmative. Mr. Mills then presented a substitute for Mr. Magoffin's resolution, as follows: Resolved, That the Legislature of Minnesota approve of the bill reported by the joint committee of the two houses of Congress for the counting of the electoral votes for President of the United States, and that a copy of this resolution be telegraphed to each of our Senators and Representatives." The word "telegraphed" was stricken out and the substitute adopted by a vote of 49 to 41, and further action postponed for the day. The Senate bill relating to incorporating parishes of the Episcopal church was passed. The Senate bill allowing women to practice law in the courts was lost because less than a quorum voted for it; the vote stood 48 to 34, and was reconsidered and laid upon the table. The biennial sessions bill was passed. Bills were introduced relating to fish culture and to prohibit the sale of property for debt at less than three-fourths its value.

Bills were introduced in the Senate, on the 25th, to appropriate $14,000 for the maintenance of soldiers' orphans; to amend the charter of the village of Willmar; relating to roads, cartways and bridges, and several unimportant local bills. The memorial to Congress for an extension of time for the completion of the Hastings & Dakota railroad was passed. The bill providing a general law for the punishment of trespassers in hunting and fishing, was indefinitely postponed. Senator Gilfillan introduced a bill making an important amendment to the law for recording deeds and other instruments affecting real estate.

In the House, en the 25th, Mr. Scriver offered the following resolution as a substitute for that of Mr. Mills upon the Presidential question: "That our Senators and Representatives in Congress will receive our united and hearty support in the successful carrying out the measures now before Congress, presented by the select committee, or any constitutional measure that may lead to an equitable and peaceful solution of the so-called Presidential question." The substitute was supported by Messrs. Scriver, Child, Webb, and Bently, and was opposed because it was too indefinite, by Messrs. J. M. Gilman, Finney and E. Rice. The substitute was adopted and passed as a concurrent resolution. Mr. Finney introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors; the bill was prepared by leading men in the temperance cause, and makes prohibition the rule and license the exception. Mr. Campbell introduced a bill amending the constitution relating to grand juries; the bill was prepared by the judiciary committee, and is intended to satisfy the growing demand for doing away with the present grand jury system. Mr. Crooks introduced a bill transferring the Inebriate asylum property to the board of directors of the hospital for the insane, and establishing a hospital for the insane at Rochester. Both houses adjourned to Tuesday the 30th, at 3 oclock.