

THE ADVOCATE AND NEWS

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EVERY WEDNESDAY. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

Conference With the Miners.

Governor Leedy Meets and Talks With Coal Diggers of Southeastern Kansas.

LEARNS OF FORCED WRONGS.

Governor Leedy made a trip last week which is out of the line ordinarily pursued by men in his position. He spent several days last week with the miners of southeastern Kansas, meeting with them and learning their condition and the grievances of which they complain. He went unannounced except to miners and did not see any of the politicians excepting those who learned of his arrival and dropped in to pay their respects.

In the selection the miners supported the present State administration almost unanimously, and they have felt that if they were ever to get their rights their recognition would come through the present officers. In consequence, Governor Leedy, Attorney General Boyle and Mine Inspector McGrath have received numerous communications and requests from the miners, and the steps that have already been taken are familiar with the readers of this paper. But Governor Leedy determined to find out all that could be learned regarding the injustices imposed upon the miners, and he accordingly went to Pittsburg last week where he met with the miners Wednesday evening. The meeting was known only to mine workers, and all but miners were excluded. Governor Leedy made the statement that he came down to listen and to be talked to, and that he wanted to hear what the miners had to say. They discussed the screen and weights question, the scrip system, the company doctor plan, and the other impositions, and the miners told their own experiences. They spoke freely, as a pit-boss and several others who would have been liable to report to the companies, and who were present at the beginning of the meeting, were politely asked to retire. In addition to the meeting the Governor gave over two days to meeting individual miners and committees from Pittsburg, Frontenac, Chicopee, Litchfield and other neighboring places. He met the Chicopee miners at a meeting at that place Friday evening.

At Weir City, Thursday, Governor Leedy met with Local Assembly No. 1,828, Knights of Labor, representing about 300 miners, in the evening, and with others during the day and until noon Friday. A delegation from Scammon met him Thursday afternoon, and several members of the Scammon assembly were present at the evening meeting. Outside of a representative of the Advocate and News, who accompanied him on the trip, the Governor went alone, and all the conferences he attended were merely between him and the miners.

Governor Leedy acknowledges that he has learned many things that were new to him, and he has a much better understanding of the nature of the miners' complaints. The company doctor sys-



In the Enemy's Country.
THE CADAVER IN THE WINDOW: "There is nothing iridescent about that combination."

tem, by which the miner is compelled to pay for a doctor against his will and frequently for the services of an incompetent physician, particularly impressed him. He has returned to Topeka better able to see to the enforcement of the mining laws of the State. In his talks to the miners he told of his own experience as a farm laborer and gave them some advice from his standpoint as Governor of the State as to the best ways of securing their rights as citizens.

Neodesha's Municipal Progress.

The city of Neodesha, which has been meeting with considerable difficulty in securing municipal ownership of the natural gas and waterworks plant has finally secured a settlement of its troubles. Two affirmative votes have been given by the people, but interested persons have instituted dilatory litigation. A compromise of differences has been effected. A plant now in operation has been bought at terms which will justify a big reduction in rates. The new rates will be:

For any manufacturer that may come in, 6 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, and the city to receive half of that.

Cook stoves, \$1.50 per month for the six winter months; \$1.25 per month for the six summer months.

Heating stoves, \$7.50 for the six winter months—meaning the heater for the season.

Wellsbach lights, 15 cents each. Street lamps will cost the city 10 cents each per month.

For city waterworks, gas at what it will cost the city—2.4 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, or about \$110 for the year for fuel for that purpose.

Gas for school, city hall, churches and

other public halls, 20 per cent. off schedule prices; or, if preferred by them, 15 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

Should any private consumer desire to use gas by the meter, a rate of 20 cents (less 10 per cent.) per 1,000 cubic feet will be made.

At these rates the income from private consumers will pay the interest on the bonds voted to buy and improve the plant, pay the expense of operation and leave a surplus of \$2,000 per year, all on an investment of \$10,000.

Double Pay for State Work.

A Sub-Contractor's Judgment Against Contractors, Who Were Paid in Full, is Paid by the State.

THE STATE LOSES AS USUAL.

A contract was let to Fellows & Vansant August 5, 1895, amounting to \$21,645, for finishing the Governor's office, the Attorney General's office, the Treasurer's office and the Supreme court rooms. This contract will not be discussed in detail at this time. On this contract the usual number of extras were allowed.

According to the State Architect's record, an extra claim of \$700 was allowed for "Iron imposts S. E. arch, also 1 beam, tiling and cementing floors in the Treasurer's lavatory and vestibule; also casing 1 beam Associate Justice's quarters, and other work not otherwise specified or provided for in contract." This is a very vague record, and it requires careful examination of the plans and specifications to determine what it really means. It should have been so clear that no one could misunderstand it.

Very conservative figures show that this is a high price for the work which appears to have been done. The fact that it can not be easily figured on is not a good sign. Such things are very often done when a job is to be covered up. With reference to the iron beams referred to, which constitute the principal item of expense for material, the records fail to show whether the beams were bought by the contractors, or by the State or were beams which a former contractor had at the building and which disappeared. At any rate this bill for extras was allowed March 25, 1896, and was probably paid in a job lot of claims on June 2, 1896. That it was paid for admits of no doubt.

Much of the work done under this claim was the removal of two partitions in the Associate Justice quarters. Under the original contract these were to be coffered and plastered. Instead of

(Continued on page 2.)

The State of Kansas,

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To *Fellows & Vansant* DR.

*To 244 ft of cornice and 24 meters \$166.65
This cornice was run on beams in the
Associate Justice quarters, and clerk of
Supreme Court's office. This bill was presented
to the State Board of Architect as extra work
and disallowed after which T. E. Hopkins & Co
Sub Contractors brought suit against
Fellows & Vansant and recovered judgment
as per certified copy hereto attached*

State of Kansas, Shawnee County, ss

I do solemnly swear that the above bill is just, correct, and remains due and unpaid, that the amount claimed therein is actually due according to law.

T. E. Hopkins

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 10 day of Dec 1896

A. B. Stom

Appropriation for *State House*

Photographic Fac Simile of Voucher for Second Payment for Plastering