

CONGRESS.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Senate.—The first notes of the contest between the Nicaragua and Panama routes for the Isthmian canal were heard in the senate today.

House.—The debate on the Nicaragua canal bill in the house was opened in lively fashion today by Hepburn, chairman of the interstate and foreign commerce commission, which reported the bill.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Senate.—During consideration by the senate today of private pension legislation some important statements were made by Gallinger, chairman of the committee on pensions, in respect to regulations adopted by the committee to govern it in consideration of private pension bills.

House.—The debate on the Nicaragua canal bill in the house today developed sentiment in favor of giving consideration to the recent offer of the Panama company to sell its franchise and property for \$40,000,000, this sentiment taking the form of advocating the Morris amendment to empower the president to select the latter route if the canal commission upon considering the company's offer recommends it, and the required concessions can be obtained from Colombia.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Senate.—The open session of the senate was devoted to routine business. After an executive session the senate, at 1:50, adjourned until Monday.

House.—The Hepburn Nicaragua canal bill passed the house by practically an unanimous vote. Only two members out of 310 voted against it. Messrs. Fletcher (rep.) of Minnesota and Lassiter (dem.) of Virginia were the two voting in the negative.

Shaw is Nominated. Washington, Jan. 9.—The president yesterday sent the following nominations to the senate: Leslie M. Shaw of Iowa, secretary of the treasury; Henry C. Payne of Wisconsin, postmaster general; John R. A. Crossland, Missouri, minister resident and consul general to Liberia.

OVER THE STATE

An investigation at Creston, conducted by a committee of experts appointed by the board of supervisors, into the books of Charles Emerson, ex-county superintendent of schools, resulted in a report from the experts that there was a shortage of nearly \$300. This charge was made during the last campaign, when Emerson was a candidate for the legislature from this county, and was strenuously denied.

One of the four major generals from Iowa during the rebellion was General Francis J. Herron, who died recently in New York, who was also captain of the original Governor's Gray that went out from Dubuque. General Herron was one of the most honored officers of the war. He commanded at Wilson's Creek, was elected colonel of the Ninth Iowa and commanded at Pea Ridge, he also fought at Prairie Grove, after marching his command 114 miles in three days.

Tom Walters, who was released from the county jail at Atlantic a few days ago, after serving a thirty day sentence for being drunk, was at once rearrested by Marshal Root, of Cumberland, upon the charge of assault with intent to commit murder. While Walters was enjoying the spree for which he paid with thirty days of his labor, it seems he went home, where he at once began making kindling wood of the furniture. His wife ventured to remonstrate with him, when he got out a shotgun and said he would kill her. A terrible time was had, and a hole through which a man could easily push his feet was to be seen in the door where the load, intended for the body of the woman, struck. Mrs. Walters made her escape to the home of a neighbor, and it is to answer the assault upon her that he is now again in the toils.

Another big damage case has just been started in the district court at Atlantic against the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad. The basis of this action is an accident sustained by Arthur, a minor son of G. F. Dierks, of Marne, on the evening of October 25, 1901, by reason of a heavy sack of mail being thrown from train No. 4 passing through Marne at from forty and fifty miles an hour. The boy was standing fully 22 feet from the track, and the discharged mail sack struck him, and he was thrown 20 feet by the blow, falling on the sidewalk with such force as to render him unconscious for some time afterward.

In the case of the state vs. Chester Fyler, colored, on trial in the Jasper county district court, charged with the murder of Dr. B. M. Failor of Newton last September, the jury returned a verdict of guilty and placed the penalty at life imprisonment. This ends one of the most important criminal cases in the history of the county. On the night of September 11, 1901, Dr. B. M. Failor made a professional call near the C. R. I. & P. depot in Newton, and on his way home, about 10:45 p. m., he was knocked in the head with a club and robbed of his watch and money, near the northwest corner of the Jasper & Sons lumber yard. Many clues were run down and many arrests made, and finally Tyler was apprehended, and Dr. Failor's watch was found in the possession of Tyler's sweetheart, who resides in the vicinity of Klondike coal mines, near Des Moines. There was no question about the identity of the watch for it had Dr. Failor's name engraved in it. This evidence, together with the fact that Tyler was seen in Newton on the eventful night about the time the deed was committed, left no doubt of his guilt in the minds of the jury.

At West Union a few days ago Homer M. Neff, county surveyor and former county clerk of Fayette county, shot and killed Miss Rose Mab to whom for several years he has been paying attention and wounded Emmel Sullivan, his rival, and then killed himself. The deed was committed in the room of Miss Mab at the Commercial hotel. Sullivan and the girl were visiting when suddenly Neff appeared in the doorway, firing five shots in rapid succession. Four of the shots took effect, two entered the girl's head and one penetrated the right breast. Sullivan was struck in the face, the bullet glancing. He will recover. Then Neff turned off the light and went across the park to his room, where he deliberately locked the door, removed the empty shells from his revolver, reloaded it, turned off the light and shot himself in the temple. Death was instantaneous. Neff has lived in West Union the greater part of his life. He was about 45 years old. He has borne an excellent reputation although considered somewhat eccentric. For some time he has owned and operated in company with his brother the local electric light plant. There is little question that he was prompted to the deed by insane jealousy. The girl had seemed in the past to encourage his suit, but had waited of waiting for him to get ready to marry her. Sullivan is a member of a local farm machinery firm.

The two story brick building occupied by the Holstein Savings bank at Holstein, was gutted by fire. When discovered the fire had made considerable headway, having spread throughout the greater portion of the upper story. It was only due to the efforts of the hose company that the fire was prevented from spreading to the adjoining buildings, and the damage was limited to the bank building only. The second story was occupied by R. H. Smith's law office and Dr. Williams' dental parlors. It was in the latter that the fire was first discovered. The cause is unknown.

Osborn Diegan, who was one of the participants in the sinking of the Merrimac at Santiago, has been discharged from the Ukiah Hospital for the insane and ordered to duty on the steamship Independence at Mare Island navy yard.

Sadie M. Erickson, of Massena, has just won her damage, suit against Cass county by a trial of the cause in the district court at Audubon. On May 28 last Mrs. Erickson met with quite a painful accident, sustaining a broken ankle and severe minor injuries, as the result of a defective approach to a bridge on a public highway in Victoria township. In her petition the plaintiff set up the claim that she was permanently injured and that the unsafe approach which caused the accident was due to the neglect of the county officials, and therefore demanded damage in the sum of \$10,225. The case took up three days' time in the hearing and the jury required ten hours to reach a compromise, settlement finally being arranged in a verdict for the plaintiff for \$2,000. The county attorney says that he has been instructed by the board of supervisors to prepare to appeal the case to the supreme court.

A Des Moines gentleman known throughout the state who has traveled widely in the north and northwest has made a very large collection of articles of Indian manufacture. It consists of leather and bead work, tools and implements, articles in stone and flint, pottery, pipes, tomahawks, hatchets, etc., sufficient to fill a large case. These he proffers to the historical department, conditioned only upon its careful preservation by itself, and not to be mixed with other articles, a very reasonable stipulation. Mr. Aldrich is in hopes of being able to make such preparation for this Indian collection as will secure it to the department. Proffers of this kind are frequently coming to the department and there is a constant demand for the enlargement of the museum space. These articles have great ethnological and archaeological interest, and possess a value which will not only be permanent but increase in the future as they become more and more difficult to obtain.

There seems to be a growing feeling among the members of the legislature that in spite of all the agitation the congressional districts of the state will not be changed this session of the legislature. Members of the senate seem more averse to a change than do members of the house. In the northwestern part of the state the sentiment is general but the northwestern part of the state alone can do nothing. It is large in extent, but small in representation in both the house and senate. Therefore the chances are that while an effort will be made, little will be accomplished. Some of the members of both houses have been active in making maps, have been heard to express themselves as opposed to any radical change in the districts this year. It seems likely that if a bill should pass the house it would be killed in the senate. All of the present members of congress are against redistricting and their influence will have considerable effect on any plan that may be proposed.

With three blows of his fist Frank B. Ferguson, a carpenter, almost instantly killed Leonard Shelgren of Cherokee during a quarrel at a Sioux City boarding house. The blows broke Shelgren's nose and caused consciousness to be lost. He died about forty-five minutes later. Ferguson and Shelgren quarreled in the latter's 3-year-old child which was being cared for in the boarding house. Shelgren, who is a widower, handled the child so roughly that Ferguson took it from him and placed it in another room. On his return Shelgren showed fight, and made a vicious lunge at Ferguson, who then dealt the fatal blows in return. He himself notified the police of the affair, not knowing his victim was likely to die. It was discovered later that Ferguson served two terms in the penitentiary, the last time for ten years for robbery of a rich farmer near Oto. During his first term at Anamosa prison, he was concerned in an insurrection among the prisoners.

The members of the board of regents of the State University, wish to impress upon the legislature this year the necessity of a gradual increase in the appropriations for the university rather than appropriating large lump sums. "We expect to ask for a medical building be replaced," said Harvey Ingham, of Algona, member of the board of regents. "We think that the state ought to arrange for the prompt replacing of all buildings destroyed by fire, as long as it carries its own insurance. The Iowa University is a great institution, but it does not compare with the institutions of surrounding states. Their income is two or three times what ours is, as a rule, and hence the difference in their standing. Yet Iowa University is placed in the same class with them, which shows that our instruction and general reputation entitled us to this position. In order to maintain our present standing we must make improvements. State institutions around us have an annual income of from \$300,000 to \$500,000, while that of Iowa has only \$150,000. The number of our students is constantly on the increase. It takes more money in proportion to run a school of 2,000 students than it does one of 500. An increase in the number of students means further subdivisions of the work, and every subdivision greatly increases the expense of maintaining the institution. This year we expect to impress upon the legislature the necessity of gradually increasing the appropriation for the running expenses of the university."

W. A. MacIntyre of the Iowa Retail Hardware Dealers' association announces that the annual meeting will be held in Des Moines, February 18, 19 and 20.

William Smith and Morris Shea were bound over to the Polk county grand jury by Justice Duncan to answer for the murder of Charles Johnson of East Des Moines, who was killed in a saloon brawl on Christmas eve. John Coyle and Jim Lally were acquitted by the magistrate of any participation in the affair, which ended in murder and they were discharged, their bonds being released and they were liberated from any complicity in the case.

THOMAS IS IN CUSTODY CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF MABEL SCHOFIELD.

Thomas Purchased Poison on the Day Before She Died—Other Incriminating Evidence.

Des Moines, Jan. 13.—Charles Thomas of 1016 Woodland avenue, has been arrested on the charge of murder, on a warrant sworn out by C. A. Crawford in the court of Justice Tris. He is accused of having murdered Mabel Schofield on or about October 21, 1899, by the use of poisonous drugs, with chloroform, chloral and knockout drops. Judge W. A. Spurrier has been retained to prosecute and it was he who drew the information and upon whose advice the warrant was issued. Thomas was arraigned and asked for time to prepare for preliminary hearing. The case was set down for preliminary hearing February 17. Justice Tris told the defendant he would be admitted to bail in the sum of \$6,000, but in default Thomas was locked up in the county jail to await the hearing. The evidence upon which the warrant was issued, as recited by Judge Spurrier, strongly supports the theory of murder which was advanced at the time of the finding of the body of Mabel Schofield in the Des Moines river east of the public bath house. In short, Judge Spurrier's is the only tangible recital of facts and circumstances that has been given since October 21, 1899, in support of the theory of murder.

Thomas, who is accused of the murder, is the son of Jasper N. and Margaret E. Thomas of 1016 Woodland avenue, with whom Mabel Schofield made her home while in Des Moines. It was from this house that she started with her mother to go to the Chicago Great Western depot the day she disappeared, and it was at the depot that she was last seen alive. On that day Mr. Thomas was absent from the house working at his trade and Mrs. Thomas, who is a nurse, was not at home.

SLATES GO THROUGH.

Republican Caucus Results in Election of Officials Agreed Upon.

Des Moines, Jan. 13.—The republican caucus of the lower house was called to order at the state house Saturday afternoon. Payne of Appanoose was chosen as chairman, William Larabee, Jr., of Fayette, secretary, and Nagle of VanBuren, assistant secretary. The slate as agreed upon was then presented for the election of officers of the house. It was carried without opposition and is as follows: Speaker—W. L. Eaton, Osage. Chief clerk—Rush Benedict, Harlan. First assistant—John C. Crockett, Eldora. Second assistant—John A. Cook, Hampton. Engraving clerk—Mollie Heist, Corydon. Enrolling clerk—Ella Wheeler, Mason City. Journal clerks—Ford Howell, Des Moines; Harry Griffin, Maquoketa. File clerk—C. F. Schell, Hancock county. Bill clerk—Bessie Conger, Washington.

Assistant postmistress—Hester Runyon, Odebolt. Sergeant-at-arms—C. W. Reynolds, Grundy county. Chief doorkeeper—J. B. Lewis, Spencer. Assistant doorkeepers—John De Boos, Sibley; T. W. Hazelton, Winneeshiek county; Michael Fitzpatrick, Williamsburg; R. P. Harris, Polk; Robert Blizard, Jasper; J. A. Wilson, Buena Vista; W. S. Page, Clayton; J. O. Lias, O'Brien; F. C. Fitz, Guthrie. Janitors—N. Middleton, Hamilton; C. F. Wright, Scott; Ed. Ross, Sioux City; R. N. Hyde, Polk. Pages—Samuel E. Moore, Davis; Earl W. Riley, Decatur; Wilmot J. Long, Des Moines; Harry Sokol, Jackson; Larkin Crawford, Des Moines; Clarence Miller, Ames; Bert H. Winslow, Des Moines.

A house caucus committee to serve during the entire session was then selected as follows: Jenks of Pottawatomie, Merservy of Webster, English of Polk, Coburn of Cherokee and Calderwood of Scott.

In the senate caucus the following nominations were made and the candidates selected:

Secretary—G. A. Newman of Cedar Falls. First assistant—S. D. Alexander of Madison. Second assistant—H. C. Lounsbury, of Marshalltown. Engraving clerk—Lois M. Rigby of Devenport. Enrolling clerk—Ella Christie of Oskaloosa. Bill clerk—Kate Shelby of Boone. File clerk, W. E. Griswold of Independence. Journal clerks—Cecil Dixon of Fort Dodge and John Gonnolly of Des Moines.

Sergeant-at-arms—E. C. Collins of Garner. Chief doorkeeper—J. H. Serene of Lansing. Postmistress—Edith Leffingwell of Glidden.

Affair of No Consequence.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Secretary Long received the following cablegram from Commander Edward D. Barry of the gunboat Vicksburg, in answer to the department's inquiry regarding the recently reported clash at Niu Chwang between sailors of the Vicksburg and Russian soldiers: "Ying Yang (no date).—Secretary Navy, Washington: Nothing serious; crew orderly. (Signed.) "Barry."

When a plain woman marries well how the women snuff!

Charles Thomas, under arrest and detained in the county jail at Des Moines, to await a preliminary hearing on the charge of murdering Mabel Schofield, will plead an alibi. It is said Thomas has established what appears to be a complete alibi as to his whereabouts up to 12:30 of October 21, 1899, the day upon which it is charged he murdered Mabel Schofield. Beyond that time members of his family and a relative, a cousin, will testify to his whereabouts, but the fact that they are relatives weakens his alibi. Up to 12:30, however, his alibi is proven by witnesses who have no interest in the case.

NO RESPONSE TO CALL.

Englishmen Universally Decline to Volunteer.

London, Jan. 13.—The British war office is confronted with a most serious circumstance of affairs. Its call for volunteers to relieve the regiments at the front, has so far, met with absolutely no response, and has served to intensify the widespread indignation existing among all volunteer regiments.

In the first place, volunteers answering the call could only receive a shilling a day, while the yeomanry, in which many volunteers have already enlisted, receive five shillings a day. The only solution for the deadlock appears to be for the war office to introduce conscription or withdraw the new regulations. They have stirred up strife to an extent which has not existed for many a year between the government officials and the voluntary arm of the service, and, according to many high officers, will bankrupt a majority of the regiments.

According to the new rules, every regiment must go into camp for one week each year, and the government grant will be reduced in proportion to the number of absentees from the camp. The volunteer commanders say it is impossible to get more than 40 per cent of the men together the same week, so different are the occupations of the volunteers. In addition the war office refuses to recognize drills which are not attended by a percentage of men, which it has hitherto been found quite impossible to attain, and imposes battalion drill of such strength that there is no drill hall or parade ground in London large enough to enable the battalions to maneuver.

Among those who condemn the new regulations is Colonel Balfour, a brother of the cabinet minister, A. Balfour, who commands the London Scottish. The matter will be brought to the attention of parliament, and if the order of the secretary, Mr. Broderick, is not amended, the volunteer force, so the colonel of one of the strongest London regiments says, will dwindle to nothing. In the meanwhile the war office is still awaiting anxiously for an answer to its call for additional troops for service in South Africa.

ANGLO-GERMAN AGITATION.

Remarkable Article Published by the London Times.

London, Jan. 14.—A remarkable article appears in yesterday's Times, under the caption of "Literature of German Anglophobia," recounting the character of the anti-British cartoons which have appeared in the German newspapers which, the Times says, "in coarseness, obscenity and venom are without a parallel in modern times." The wisdom of the publication of the article at this juncture is much questioned. The Star says: "The Times today of all days begins a series of articles on the offensive German caricatures. Every newspaper has long been aware of these caricatures, but the responsible journals have not advertised these insults, simply because no good could be done by setting the British and German peoples by the ears. The Times ought to hesitate before it deliberately flogs the passion of the people. Are our publicists dead? Cannot they see the abyss towards which they are bounding this long suffering nation?"

The Times' article, which is two columns long, says: "These papers are not guttersheets, but are sold everywhere at the stations, even at Potsdam station, where the emperor is constantly traveling. He was finally obliged to personally order their removal. Never are these papers anonymous. One of the most infamous of all, entitled 'The Boer War,' bears on the title pages the names of persons distinguished in the literary and artistic world of Germany. From a purely technical standpoint the paper is an art production; but it is difficult to find words to convey a notion of the filth which its cultured artists and writers venturers to lay before its cultured German readers. British soldiers are represented as robbing the dead; Mr. Chamberlain's state coach is depicted as a cart laden with the skeletons, and King Edward is shown dead drunk in his bed room, receiving the news of Cronje's surrender. But the crowning piece is a cartoon entitled 'Hero Worship.' The then Prince of Wales, with Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales and the young princess by her side, is decorating a youthful soldier. The legend underneath reads, textually: 'An English princess decorating the youngest soldier in the British army with the Victoria cross, because, although only 13, he has already outraged eight Boer women.' This obscenity, sold in respectable shops, was eagerly bought by the public and lies on fashionable drawing room tables."

MASON ON RECIPROCITY.

Offers Resolution Declaring It to Be the True Policy.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Mr. Mason introduced in the senate the following resolution: "Resolved, That the doctrine of reciprocity as stated in the act of 1890, known as the McKinley bill, and act of 1897, known as the Dingley bill, is the true doctrine, and in the interest of the prosperity of the United States, and that the treaties pending in the senate should receive consideration and action at the present session of congress.

"Resolved, further, That the United States should give to the Island of Cuba a broad reciprocal trade, which will be of advantage to the commerce of this country and the discharge of our duty toward the people of that island."

Col. Henry Watterson, the veteran journalist, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, is one of the hardest working men in the newspaper profession. Though well advanced in years, he gets to his office every morning at 7 o'clock, which necessitates very early rising, as he lives twenty miles from Louisville and drives to his office, behind a spirited pair of Kentucky mares.

The Shah of Persia is said to have once told the Duchess of Westminster the name of her beauty had reached Teheran. "Ah," said she to some one who stood by, "he takes me for Westminster Abbey."

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL

Des Moines, Jan. 14, 1902.

It is said the slack water canal scheme will be allowed to rest for a time. Owing to the opposition of the railroads that do business in Iowa the scheme to make the Des Moines river a slack water canal has not been pushed as rapidly as first intended, though the projectors have not lost hope. It is said that the railroads were preparing to send a strong lobby to Washington to fight any bill that proposed making the river into a water way for the transportation of freight. The Commercial Exchange through committees had endorsed the scheme, but it is understood that outside parties have advised letting the subject drop for a few months at least.

Superintendent Barrett has just sent out a circular to the county superintendents in which he considered a number of important educational matters. He asks the co-operation of the county superintendents in the work of the department superintendents. He notes the fact that his recent biennial report shows a decrease in school attendance and urges that this falling off and the remedies therefor be considered. The library work is commended. County superintendents are asked to promote this work so far as is in their power. Advice is given on examinations, and, it is said, lists of the examination questions for February, March, April, July, August, September and October will be sent to superintendents for the purpose of harmonizing the conduct of examinations throughout the state. Visitations of schools is urged and many other matters are touched upon.

A decision rendered in Judge Holmes' court is of much interest to tax collectors and tax payers. It is in regard to the constitutionality of chapter 50, of the acts of the Twentieth General Assembly, relative to the manner of collecting taxes on property not previously listed or assessed, as, for instance, where through oversight no record had been made of a certain property, by reason of such oversight, taxes had not been collected upon the property. Under the decision, the assessor may, upon finding that such an error has been made, go back as far as five years and levy such assessment as is equitable for each year of that time.

Attorney General Mullan has received a letter from F. E. Rittman, auditor for the war department, in the federal treasury department, in which it was stated that the claims filed by the state of Iowa for interest on war bonds and war warrants would be disposed of by the court of claims. It has been expected by Mr. Mullan for some time that these claims would not be settled in the treasury department directly, but that they would be referred to the court of claims for adjudication. More especially has this been the case since the appointment of Governor Shaw as secretary of the treasury, as it was anticipated that the governor would not deem it best to permit the department of which he is to be the head to pass on claims from his own state. It is expected, however, the course to be followed indicated plainly in the statement that the law supposes that the shall be adjusted by the courts of claims.

The Continental Biscuit company, whose officers decided several weeks ago to establish a mammoth plant in Des Moines from which its Iowa trade, has closed a F. M. Hubbell, Son & Co. and will commence work of production at once.

The city of Des Moines, according to the present plans of the local authorities on arrangements, will permit the department of which he is to be the head to pass on claims from his own state. It is expected, however, the course to be followed indicated plainly in the statement that the law supposes that the shall be adjusted by the courts of claims.

The statement of the controller of the state and savings banks, in the close of business December 31, 1901, has been issued from the office of State Treasurer Merriman. It shows an increase in the business transacted by the banks. The statement for the last one issued showed a condition at the close of business September 30 of last year. At that time there were 495 state and savings banks in Iowa. At the close of business December 31 there were 501 banks transacting business, 281 savings banks and 220 state banks. The amount of money on deposit in the state and savings banks September 30, 1901, was \$120,466,645.42. At the close of business December 31 the amount on deposit was \$121,852,942.76, an increase of nearly a million and a half of dollars.

Speaker Eaton has announced house chairmanships as follows: Ways and means, Temple of Clarke; judiciary, Clarke of Dallas; appropriations, Hughes of Iowa; railroads and commerce, Wise of Black Hawk; municipal corporations, Carter of Sioux; congressional districts, Furry of Hardin.

The Lincoln Hussars of this city will shortly hand in their equipment to the adjutant general, as recommended by Col. J. A. Olmsted, the inspector general in his report. The Hussars are practically a defunct organization, and, according to Col. Olmsted's report, could not legally use the state's equipment.

Special Session Called. St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 13.—Governor Van Sant has issued a formal call for an extraordinary session of the state legislature, to assemble Tuesday, February 4. The call sets forth that the tax commission appointed at the last session to revise and codify the laws relative to taxation has completed its work, and its report is now ready for submission. The session is therefore called upon to consider this report and enact such tax laws as may be deemed best.

Vienna has a school for waiters, with a three years' course. Among the subjects is French.