A WISCONSIN WONDER.

Laborers Digging Near Kaukauna Discover the Ruins of a Stone Building of Ancient Origin.

A Curious Electrical Display at Waupun, Wis.--Thirty-Ninth District Republicans.

A Thief Drowned at Half-Moon Lake --The Average of Minnesota's Corn Crop.

Food for Speculation.

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 26.—At Kankanna, Wis., workmen engaged in excavating a sewer came upon the ruins of a stone building at a depth of eight feet. The stone found bore traces of fine workmanship and polish. Further digging developed a quantity of ashes, about twenty-five bushels of which were removed, when another wall was struck. The stones were finely faced, some being blackened as if by fire and smoke. Others must have been subjected to great artificial heat, as they had crumbled into lime. The work was found but a foot or two above bed-rock, and shows evidences of workmanship that could have been performed only by a highly civilized race. It must have been done centuries ago, as a large elm tree had grown over the ruins. The discovery has led to the advancement of many theories.

Balls of Fire.

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 26.—A Waupaca dispatch says that an interesting electrical display was witnessed there during a severe thunder storm. The electric light wires which run along one side of Main street were so heavily charged with electricity that large balls of fire were seen hanging or suspended in the air just below them. Occasionally one would explode, and a number of persons in the vicinity received severe shocks.

Named for the Legislature.

LITTLE FALLS, Sept. 26.—The Democratic legislative convention of the Thirty-ninth district was held at Little Falls on Saturday. Delegates were present from Morrison, Todd, Crow Wing, Benton and Mille Lacs counties. Robert Brown, of Morrison, was made temporary chairman, and M. C. Kennedy, of Todd, secretary. Committees on credentials, resolutions and organization were appointed by the chair. The temporary organization was made permanent. H. C. Stivers, of Crow Wing, G. W. Duncan, of Todd, and Moses Lafond, of Morrison, were nominated by acclamation as candidates for representatives, and George Geissel, of Morrison, for state senator. H. C. Stivers, editor of the Brainerd Journal, came before the convention and made a neat speech in the interest of the laboring man, at the conclusion of which G. W. Duncan, of Todd, a prominent leader in the Farmers' alliance, advocated the cause of the farmer. E. B. Preble, of Morrison, Peter Mertz, of Crow Wing, Thomas Van Ellen, of Benton, N. C. Kennedy, of Todd, and N. M. Smith, of Mille Lacs, were appointed as the legislative committee for the next two years. Stivers, who has been indorsed by the Knights of Labor, of which order he is a member, will make a thorough canvass of his district, advocating the cause of the laboring man. He will undoubtedly receive a large majority over his opponent, Lenn. George Geissel, the candidate for state senator, is an exceedingly popular gentleman, and is, without doubt, the strongest man that could have been selected.

A Democratic Split.

Special to the Globe.

RED WING, Sept. 26.—The call which has been issued for a Democratic county convention, to be held at Hader to-morrow, to nominate a complete county ticket, seems to have originated at Zumbrota, among a few dissatisfied ones. This action is entirely independent of the Democratic county committee. The question of nominating a complete county ticket was thoroughly discussed at the last regular Democratic county convention, and it was the unanimous opinion that such action was not advisable, for the reason that it would endanger the election of those nominated. The matter, however, was left with the county committee, to fill out the ticket if advisable. What action, if any, the county committee has taken has not been learned, but as it has not met since the convention the matter is still in their hands. The convention at Hader seems to have two objects in view, says a prominent Democrat, to nominate a Zumbrota man for county auditor, and to devise means to defeat the regular Democratic nominee for sheriff. It was to have been hoped that all would abide by the action of the convention, rather than endanger the success of the party. The Republicans are jubilant over this split, as they see a chance of electing their entire ticket.

The industrial fair, which opens at the West End driving park to-morrow, promises to be a grand success in every way. The exhibits in the stock and other lines will be unusually large, and the special attractions are excellent. On Wednesday there is a band tournament, and on Thursday a farmers' tournament. Dr. A. A. Ames will speak at the fair on Wednesday afternoon.

Renville County Republicans.

Special to the Globe.

BIRD ISLAND, Minn., Sept. 26.—At the Republican convention in this county yesterday the following nominations were made: Senator, D. S. Hall, Preston Lake; representative, P. F. Walstrom, Sacred Heart; auditor, Thomas M. Paine, Bird Island; clerk of court, W. W. McGowan, Beaver Falls; treasurer, Hans Listerud, Hawk Creek; register of deeds, Gunnerius Peterson, Bandon; sheriff, Hans O. Field, Sacred Heart; superintendent of schools, Eric Erickson, Beaver Falls; judge of probate, Jesse T. Brooks, Renville; attorney, G. J. Christianson, Renville; surveyor, M. S. Spicer, Emmett; coroner, Dr. W. Clay, Renville; county commissioner, First district, Henry Brown; Second, John Thompson; Third, W. H. Jewell; Fourth, Henry Schaffer; Fifth, O. S. Reishus. The senator and representative are in favor of C. K. Davis for senator.

Will Vote for Day.

Special to the Globe.

YANKTON, Sept. 26.—The delegates from Yankton county to the territorial Democratic convention at Aberdeen, leave here Monday morning for that place. The delegation is composed of C. J. B. Harris, J. B. Van Nelson, George Brown, Otto Peemiller, William Genemill, S. B. Coulson and S. W. Swift. This delegation is instructed to favor resolutions for division and admission.

It is the opinion of the delegations from Southern Dakota that the nominee of the convention will be Hon. M. H. Day, of Bon Homme county. It is well known that no matter whom they place upon the ticket, he cannot be elected. For this reason it is understood the name of Capt. Maratta will not be mentioned. The nomination of Day will strengthen that gentleman with the administation, and will also be a severe rebuke to the Boynton ring of the Democracy in this territory. Still, the convention may satisfy the friends of Mr. Day by adopting resolutions approving of and indorsing his actions.

Black Hills Democrats.

Special to the Globe.

RAPID CITY, Dak., Sept. 25.—The Lawrence county Democratic convention was held at Deadwood. A committee of five, appointed for the purpose, elected as chairman Huger Wilkinson, and as secretary P. D. O'Brien. A central committee was appointed and the following nominations for county officers made: Sheriff, Wesley Alexander; register of deeds, Joseph H. Moore; treasurer, Ed Lofland; district attorney, W. L. McLaughlin; probate judge, Neil McDonough; coroner, Nels Frederickson; assessor, Dr. E. D. Ralph; county superintendent, W. E. Massie; surveyor, William Hopkins; county commissioners, J. K. P. Miller and M. C. Cooper. The following delegates to the Aberdeen convention were chosen: W. R. Steele, T. L. Skinner, P. D. O'Brien, J. W. Rodebank, P. Holman, John R. Wilson and T. D. Murrein. One of the delegates, John R. Wilson, was the standard bearer of the Democratic party two years ago, and polled a vote much larger than was expected. It is the earnest wish of all Black Hills Democrats to see him placed in the field again this fall, but it is understood that he would prefer another man. While Marshal Maratta was in the Hills attending court a month ago some quiet political work was done, and those who know, and could tell if they wished, say that the five Black Hills counties will send to Aberdeen a solid Maratta representation. Mike Day was here at that time, and assisted materially in arranging things satisfactorily. He assured the GLOBE reporter while here that Wilson was fully satisfied with Maratta, and would do all in his power to nominate and elect him. The Democrats will work the Black Hills and the Missouri river counties hard on the argument that a Democrat can get the Sioux reservation opened while a Republican can't, and it is undeniable that a large number of Republican votes will be captured in that way.

Democrats Favor Division.

Special to the Globe.

YANKTON, Dak., Sept. 26.—At the Democratic legislative convention held here yesterday, resolutions were adopted as follows.

Resolved, That we are unequivocally opposed to admission as a whole, and are in favor of the passage of what is known as the Hill bill, dividing the territory on the seventh standard parallel, and submitting the question to a vote of the people of the entire territory.

Resolved, That we belive in the Jacksonian doctrine, that to the victors belong the spoils, and that when the people vote to change the administration, they mean an entire change of men as well as of party.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the repeal of the capital commission bill, and recommend that the next legislature take immediate steps to nullify the same, and reestablish the capital at Yankton.

Opposed to Carpet-Baggers.

Special to the Globe.

MILBANK, Sept. 25.—At the Democratic county delegate convention held in this city this afternoon, the following delegates were elected to the Aberdeen territorial convention: P. Skaben, Lewis Plant, L. C. Left, H. J. Glasson, Eugene Philles. The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we indorse the administration of President Cleveland, excepting his appointment of carpet-baggers to office in the territories, as it is contrary to Democratic principles and to the spirit of the national Democratic platform.

Resolved, That inasmuch as there is a grave difference of opinion existing in the minds of the people of the county upon the question of division or admission as a whole, we believe that in all fairness the question should be submitted to a popular vote.

Resolved, That we indorse the administration of Hon. Mr. Sparks, commissioner of the general land office, believing that he has acted conscientiously for the best interests of the actual settler, and against the land sharks and speculators.

Resolved, That we believe in tariff for revenue only.

Resolved, That we are opposed to monopolies and class legislations.

Resolved, That we believe in the old Jeffersonian doctrine of exact justice to all, special favors to none

The following delegates were elected to the Democratic convention for the Twelfth legislative district, which meets at Milbank Oct. 3: A. J. Hiltz, Charles G. Regan, B. P. Murphy, Jacob Sarff, Dr. Frey, A. J. Ampray, A. H. Lewis, W. R. Movins, J. E. Simmond. James C. Drake was elected chairman of the Democratic county central committee, and F. B. Kelly secretary. Judge Becker, of Fargo, secretary of the Territorial Democratic committee, who was present, was invited to address the meeting, and gave a stirring fifteen minutes' speech which was loudly applauded. At the Milbank city caucus, Friday evening, A. H. Lewis was chosen chairman of the Democratic city committee and ex officio member of the county central committee.

For Gifford and Division.

Special to the Globe.

HURON, Dak., Sept. 25.—The following ticket was nominated last night by the Beadle county Republican convention Marvin Cook, register of deeds; J. Z. Davis, treasurer; J. E. Huffman, sheriff; Mr. Lawrence, assessor; E. A. Morse, probate judge; H. J. Bingham, surveyor; M. A. Collins, coroner; Miss Cora M. Shorber, superintendent of schools. The convention passed resolutions condemning the action of Commissioner Sparks, relative to land matters in the Northwest, also indorsing Judge Gifford and pledging support of the division and admission proposition.

BRACKLIN ACCEPTS.

The Democratic Candidate For Congress in the Eighth Wisconsin District Will Run.

RICE LAKE, Wis., Sept. 23.—John O. Henning, chairman; H. E. Hotchkiss, secretary, and the delegates of the Eighth district Democratic convention—Gentlemen: I have received your communication, dated Sept. 21, informing me of my unanimous nomination as your candidate for congressional preferment in the Eighth congressional district of Wisconsin. In accepting your nomination, which I do, standing squarely upon the platform of principles adopted by the Democratic state convention, held at Madison, Wis., on the 15th inst., as well as the platform adopted by the Democratic congressional convention held at Eau Claire on the 21st inst., it is with the knowledge that I am not familiar with the administration of public affairs, but, if elected, I will not prove a crank upon any subject affecting the public's interest. I am not insensible to the fact that a reduction of the tariff would conduce to the welfare of the consuming and laboring class to which I belong, and can therefore heartily indorse the resolutions passed by your convention on that subject. I am favorable to the passage of a general pension law, granting to every honorably discharged Union soldier and sailor of the rebellion, a liberal and uniform pension, variable in accordance with the disabilities existing in each individual case. In regard to the liquor traffic, not being a drinking man, I am in favor of any just and legal measure that will tend to suppress or diminish the sale or use of intoxicating liquors. Should I be elected I shall studiously labor for the best interests of the people of this district. Thanking you for the honor conferred, I am yours very truly,

JAMES BRACKLIN.

THE CORN CROP.

In Minnesota it Will Average 20 to 40 Bushels to the Acre.

CHICAGO, Sept. 26.—The following crop review will appear in this week's issue of the Farmers' Review:

The weather has continued unusually favorable for the growing corn, and the bulletins from some of the Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois counties indicate a slightly more favorable outlook than was deemed to be possible one month ago. The crop has certainly not gone backward as a whole during the past four weeks, but the reports as to the yield continue to show that the yield per acre will be considerably below the average. The reports of correspondents from twenty counties in Illinois estimate the yield by bushels per acre and show a range of 12 to 40 bushels. The lowest averages are reported from Williams, Wayne, Stephenson, Madison, Christian and Boone counties, where the yield is placed at from 12 to 20 bushels. In Wabash, Stark, Pulaski, Jo Daviess, Johnson, Greene, Fulton and Coles the yield is estimated at from 25 to 30 bushels. In Crawford, Effingham, Kankakee, Macon, McDonough and Woodford the yield is placed at 35 to 40 bushels. In the state of Iowa the averages follow very closely those of Illinois. In twenty counties reporting this week the lowest estimate is 12 bushels for Fayette county, and the highest 40 bushels for Grundy, Pottowattamie, Winneshiek and Jackson counties. In Davis, Ringgold, Warner and Washington counties the yield is estimated to be 18 to 20 bushels, in Gage and Tama counties 25 bushels, in Buchanan, Green and Winnebago counties 30 bushels, in Adair, Cherokee, Cedar, Emmet, Osceola and Palo Alto counties 35 bushels. In Nebraska the lowest estimate of average is 25 bushels in Butler and Otoe counties. In Boone, Case, Gage and Hamilton counties the average is placed at 30 bushels, in Richardson county 40 bushels, in Buffalo county 45 bushels, in Thayer county 30 bushels, while the average in Red Willow county is placed at from 50 to 80 bushels. In the state of Missouri the lowest average is indicated in Shelby county, where the prospective output is 9 bushels, in Harrison, Putnam and St. Francis counties 15 to 18 bushels, Cole, Hickory and Webster counties 20 bushels, in Butler and Pettis counties, 25 bushels; in Howard and Vernon counties, 30 bushels, and in Gentry county, 35 bushels. In the state of Kansas, the lowest average is 15 bushels, reported from Jefferson county, and the highest, 45 bushels, in Ellis county. In Wisconsin the average ranges very low in some of the counties, with a majority of the returns, however, indicating 20 to 30 bushels. In Dakota the returns range from 25 to 40 bushels, though in Clark county the yield is placed at 4 to 10 bushels. In Minnesota the average ranges from 20 to 40 bushels. Indiana, Ohio and Michigan report the highest averages. In Indiana, reports from eighteen counties show a general average of 38 to 40 bushes to the acre; Pike, Morgan, Montgomery, Henry, Clay and Carroll counties reporting 40 to 50 bushels. The lowest average reported this week is Elkhart county, placed at 26 bushels. In Vermillion, Martin and La Grange counties the average is 30 to 35 bushels. In Ohio the general average of the counties reporting this week is from 32 to 36 bushels. None of the counties report a less average than 25 bushels. In Michigan, the smallest is 25 bushels, reported for Emmet and Huron counties. In Berrien, Barry and Dryden counties the average is placed at 40 bushels. In Ingham county it is placed at 70 bushels. The recent rains have saved a vast extent of pasturage, and brightened meadows over a wide area.

A Thief Drowned.

Special to the Globe.

EAU CLAIRE, Sept. 26.—Two weeks ago, one James Murray, a young man many times in jail for theft and vagrancy, was caught stealing chickens. While being chased by the police he jumped into the log tunnel with the idea of swimming through into Half Moon lake. He was supposed to have escaped, but this morning his body, badly decomposed, was found in the lake and identified by his relatives.

Dropped Dead.

Special to the Globe.

BIRD ISLAND, Sept. 26.—Nahum Stone, one of Renville county's prominent residents, dropped dead on the streets of Beaver Falls yesterday.

Wabasha Grand Jurors.

Special to the Globe.

LAKE CITY, Minn., Sept. 25.—The following is the list of the grand jury drawn for the next term of the district court to be held at Wabasha court house, commencing Nov. 6: Milton Smith, Plainview; T. W. Simon, Wabasha; C. D. Burchard, Plainview; Ben Jacobson, Minneiska; J. S. Stanford, Gilford; H. A. Everson, Chester; Charles La Rue, Greenfield; George E. Corser, Chester; John Brown, Glasgow; Nick Greden, Pepin; Jacob Glern, Elgin; Henry Senmauss, Pepin; W. H. Lyon, Elgin; George H. Dennison, Gilford; Clarance Jellison, Wabasha; George H. Paemar, Chester; M. Hendricks, Greenfield; W. W. Day, Mazeppa; C. F. Tryon, Wabasha; Jacob Koop, Highland; James Howat, Highland; M. Kennedy, Wabasha; J. S. Howard, Lake City.

Little Falls.

Special to the Globe.

LITTLE FALLS, Minn., Sept. 25.—The Republican state ticket does not give satisfaction to many Republicans in this county and district. Gilman would have been a stronger candidate and secured a larger vote than McGill.... A people's convention will assemble at the rink in Little Falls on Friday next, Oct. 1. It will be a people's movement, irrespective of party, and will be free to all. It is the intention to make it the largest political gathering ever held in this county. Candidates for county offices will be nominated in opposition to the ticket selected by the late Democratic county convention.... A Democratic legislative convention of the Third legislative district will be held here to-day. It is composed of Morrison, Todd, Crow Wing, Benton and Mille Lacs counties. ....Last fall C. L. Foss, then general manager of the Little Falls Live Stock company, was arrested at the instance of Jonathan Simmons, charged with theft and embezzlement. He was released upon furnishing bonds in the sum of $1,000, to appear at the September term of the district court, which adjourned this week. The grand jury presented four indictments. Foss failing to appear, having, it is said, fled to the state of Maine, the bonds were declared forfeited and several business men will suffer a loss to the amount of $1,000. There is much feeling of indignation growing out of this case.

Owatonna.

Special to the Globe.

OWATONNA, Sept. 25.—The Prohibition county convention met in this city to-day. There was a full representation present. On motion, Dr. D. H. Roberts was made chairman and W. Dennis secretary. The convention made up a full county ticket, which consisted of the following candidates: State senator, A. H. Mudeking; representative, Dexter Smith; county auditor, D. McKinley; county treasurer, George Mitchell; county register of deeds, Byron Chapin; county sheriff, J. W. Landon; county attorney, A. D. Ingersoll; probate judge, E. H. S. Dartt; surveyor, A. M. Mitchell; clerk of the district court, A. Gault; superintendent of schools, Frank Sheldon; commissioners, Sanford Kinney, C. R. Knowlton, Sr., O. M. Hammond, F. K. Hickok, Samuel Morrison. The convention was addressed briefly by Rev. Mr. Chase, of Medford; Rev. G. R. Hair, W. W. Arnold and A. H. Mudeking, of this city. The session of the convention was short, but spirited, the leaders evidently being alive to their work. The Prohibition party is gaining favor with many of our leading citizens, who are taking active part in its workings...Mrs. C. H. DeWolfe is in the city, visiting friends....Mrs. George Holden, who has been visiting friends at her old home in Elgin, Ill., for two months past, returned home last Saturday....Miss Emma Guenther spent the first of the week in St. Paul, visiting her sister, Mrs. A. Lettan.... John E. Caine, who for several years has held the position of ticket agent in the Chicago & Northwestern depot in this city, is now station agent at Merriam Park....C. J. Kinyon is confined to his home by illness....Bert Lund, of this city, won a prize in the recent bicycle tornament at Winona....Hiram Backus and family will soon remove to St. Paul to reside.... John Roland departed Monday for River Falls, Wis., to engage in the jewelry business. During his stay in this city he has made many friends, whose best wishes for his prosperity attend him....Mrs. W. R. Kinyon is entertaining her friend, Mrs. Mary Moffatt, of Chicago. Mrs. Moffatt is on her way home from a recent visit to California....Mrs. D. B. Barnes, of Delavan, Wis., and E. S. Tyler, of Fargo, Dak., were guests at the E. A. Tyler residence over Sunday last. The Fargo gentleman is a brother of E. A. Tyler and was formerly a resident of this city....At the meeting of the Beethoven Musical association last Friday evening, Prof. A. W. Rankin presented his resignation as president of the association, and for reasons which he gave it was accepted. Mr. C. E. Sheldon was elected to fill the vacancy. The treasurer and librarian having removed from the city, Miss Jessie Howe was chosen treasurer and Carl Rosebrock librarian. It was decided that the association unite with the high school in giving the proposed series of entertainments the coming winter.

Red Wing.

Invitations have been received here for the marriage of Miss Lillie E. Ball, of Minneapolis, to William O. Falk, a former resident of this city, which took place at the residence of the bride's parents, last Thursday evening. ....Mrs. Brunner and children, of St. Paul, visited with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hanenstein last week....Rev. C. H. Plummer and Judge E. T. Wilder, of Christ church, will attend the council of the Protestant Episcopal church for the United States, to be held at Chicago, next month. Rev. J. J. Hilmar, of Winona, will officiate at the church during Mr. Plummer's absence....Miss Ada M. Chapman, who for the past few weeks has been visiting at Dr. Hobart's residence, has returned to her home at Brooklyn....The Fielding Comedy Ideals hold down the boards at the Casino every evening this week.... George F. and Ira G. Gross left last week for La Moure, Dak., where they intend to take up their abode....Mrs. B. Lovgren is visiting friends in Ellsworth....Mrs. Farnsworth and daughter, Miss A. M. Farnsworth, mother and sister of Prof. F. Farnsworth, returned to their home in New Hampshire last Friday, after an extended visit with Prof. and Mrs. Farnsworth, in this city....Mrs. H. C. Shepard and child, of Winona, are guests of Hon. and Mrs. B. B. Herbert....The coming week will be fair week, and, with two tournaments, large crowds will doubtless be attracted to this city....Miss Emma Hegna is visiting friends in Minneapolis.

Fergus Falls.

Special to the Globe.

FERGUS FALLS, Sept. 25.—John Valentine, of Wadena, is about to start an oat meal mill in this city. The amount invested will be about $8,000, which has already been subscribed, and the mill will be erected immediately. Mr. Valentine has gone to St. Paul to purchase the necessary machinery, and to Akron, O., to inspect the large oat meal mills there.....The paper mill has erected a store house, size 40x60, for the mill's product....O. C. Chase secured first premium on his cheese at the Grand Forks fair.... Mrs. E. J. Evans and child are visiting in Northfield....C. F. Pike and family, of Grand Rapids, Mich., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Boyd....Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lord have gone to Wisconsin to reside....Miss Helen Craig has been elected a teacher in the new room of the First ward school....The Methodist society held a chicken pie supper on Wednesday evening and realized about $30. ....Mrs. Phillips, aunt of Mrs. J. W. Mason and mother of George Phillips, arrived on Thursday to pay them a visit.

The lively Atlantic City girl whose craze is caramels, and who thinks the sweetest thing in life is dancing on the pier.

GOOD FOR 1,000 VOTES.

Record of Judge Wilson in the Famous Railroad Land Grant Case of 1857 and 1881.

How He Opposed an Iniquitous Measure Single-Handed and Alone and Gained a Victory.

Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars Saved to the Taxpayers Through His Persistent Efforts.

Some Unwritten History in Which Loren Fletcher and Gov. Pillsbury Cut Prominent Figures.

Judge Wilson, the Democratic candidate for congress in the First district, has no need of relying upon promises to gain support. He can rest upon his record as a citizen and a legislator during his thirty years residence in Minnesota. There is no necessity for anything else, and his future course may be correctly judged by his past life and services. His record while in the legislature is one of the strong features of his present campaign, and when the facts are generally known throughout the district, hundreds of voters will be certain to flock to his support. It is a matter of record that he has always opposed railroads and corporations as a legislator, while, as an attorney, he has never received a stipulated salary. A GLOBE representative, talking with the Judge at Winona, yesterday, prevailed upon him to give a detailed account of his connection with the famous 5,000,000 land grant and loan of state credit to the railroads, extending from 1857 to 1881. The facts given are an important contribution to history and the political literature of the First district, and will be found of absorbing interest to all classes of voters—the farmers and laboring men especially. The story of Gov. Pillsbury's and Speaker Fletcher's connection with the legislation in 1881 has never been printed before. The stand taken by Judge Wilson in this one instance should win at least 1,000 votes for him from the Republican ranks in the First district. It cannot be charged, in the light of these facts, that Judge Wilson is the candidate of the railroads. The fact is, they are opposed to him and are favorable to Lovely. The story, as told by the judge, is as follows:

In 1857, as those whose memories reach back so far will recollect, the United States made a grant of

SEVERAL MILLIONS

of acres of land to Minnesota to aid in the building of a number of lines of railroad. The lands were by the legislature transferred to certain railroad companies, which agreed to build the roads. The companies agreed to pay, in lieu of all other taxes, 3 per centum of their gross earnings, and the lands were, on that consideration, exempted from taxation until they should be sold or contracted to be sold by the companies. This immunity from taxation was only of the property of the companies paying the 3 per centum of their earnings. The property of no one else was exempted. The land-grant railroad companies in 1858 applied for a loan of state credit to the amount of $5,000,000. This could not be granted but by an amendment of the constitution, which required a vote of the people. One of the roads, whose eastern terminus was at Winona, was to have $1,250,000 of a loan. The directors of the company lived at Winona, and they, by the loan,

EXPECTED TO BE ENRICHED,

and the people of the city expected that it would be greatly benefited by the building of the road. I saw, or supposed I saw, that the scheme was one intended, and whose effect would be, to plunder the state, as it, in fact, proved to be. I, therefore, opposed it, for, though the officers of the railroad company who asked for bonds claimed that the state would never be called on to pay a dollar, I was not satisfied with the honesty or truth of the statement. All the companies stood together in the zealous scramble for the plunder. At the election in Winona on that measure there were cast 1,182 votes (we had honestly six or seven hundred), and of these, 1,181 were for the loan, one against it. I was the one. They tried to create such a feeling in our town that no one would dare to vote against it. Though they could not deter me they caricatured and, so far as they dared, insulted and abused me for my course. After the work had advanced so far that a few hundred dollars had been expended on each of the roads, the companies and the governor disagreed as to the security to be given by the companies as a condition precedent to the issue of the bonds. The governor claimed that the state should have a first lien on the property of the company, which they refused, claiming that the law did not require this. Some of the companies applied for a mandamus to compel the issue of the bonds on

THEIR TERMS.

Such writ was issued in at least one of the districts. An application was made to me by one of the companies in my district—I then being judge of this district. I refused even to entertain jurisdiction or consider the question. After a considerable amount of bonds had been issued, the companies conceived the idea of using them as a banking basis, and thus getting the money into the hands of the people, undoubtedly well knowing that the currency so issued would be unsecured. Against this I also raised my voice. The railroad companies succeeded in obtaining about half of the $5,000,000. In 1881 I was a member of the legislature when the holders of the bonds made the final assault on it for payment. The bonds were largely in the hands of railroad men or railroad companies. Selah Chamberlain, on behalf of himself and most of the other bondholders, made an offer to accept in full settlement 50 per cent. of the face value of the bonds. This was favored by many, though, when the legislature met, not by nearly a majority.

THE SCHEME

I thought both dishonorable and unjust—dishonorable because it put the state in the light of a repudiator of one-half of its apparent debt, and unjust to the state because it required the payment of many times more than the state owed on any principle of law or equity. The scheme was pushed through by methods that I would be glad for the honor of the state to have forever forgotten. That I opposed this earnestly and untiringly from first to last, those who were then in the legislature or in the state will not have forgotten.

HE DECLINED TO TOUCH THEM.

A clause was inserted in the bill—to aid in floating it through—giving out of the sum going to the bondholders $150,000 to pay claims due for the construction of the roads. These claims were largely held in Winona, and many of them were at once offered to me for collection. But I declined to accept them, being determined not to place myself in a position where my interest or the interest of my clients should stand opposed to my duty as a legislator; and also being determined to oppose the measure at every move, so long as opposition could be of any avail. I thus lost individually thousands of dollars in fees. The bill providing for the payment of the bonds was at the same time introduced into both the house and senate. It provided that there should be issued "such an amount of new bonds as should be equal to 50 per cent. of the amount of the principal and interest which shall be due on said Minnesota State railroad bonds and the coupons thereto attached on the 1st day of January, 1884." By the bill, as it was introduced and as it passed the senate, it was provided that the bonds to be issued should bear interest at 5 per cent. per annum, and it will be observed that, according to the terms of the bill, the old bonds and coupons were

NOT TO DRAW INTEREST

until January, 1884, at the rate of 7 per cent. This was greatly in excess of the offer of compromise made by Mr. Chamberlain. The bill in the house was referred to a committee of ten, all of whom were in favor of it but two—Mr. McCracken, of Fillmore county, and myself. In the committee either Mr. McCracken or I proposed, as an amendment, that the rate of interest on the bonds to be issued should be 4 per cent. per annum, instead of 5, and, after a protracted discussion, the committee, with one exception, agreed to that. I, also, in the committee moved to amend so that the rate of interest to be calculated on the bonds and coupons after the date of the act up to January, 1884, should be 4 per cent. instead of 7, and that the interest should be computed on only 50 per cent. of the sum then due, instead of the whole sum as provided in the bill. This was also agreed to by the committee, with but one dissent, and the bill was ordered reported back to the house with the recommendation that the amendments should be adopted. But, as soon as the bond men heard of the proposed amendments, every possible effort was made to

DEFEAT THEM.

You will observe that, inasmuch as the amount of bonds to be issued was about $4,300,000, the sum saved to the state in interest on the new bonds would have been $43,000 per annum, making, for the thirty years which the bonds might run, $1,290,000, and the sum saved to the state by the reduction of the rate of interest from 7 per cent. to 4 per cent. for nearly two and one-half years (from November, 1881, till January, 1884), was over $200,000. When the bill was reported, as so amended, to the house, such influences were brought to bear on the members of the committee of ten that, when the question came up in the house, according to my best recollection, but one (Mr. McCracken), stood with me for the amendments. Of Mr. McCracken it is simply justice to state that he was always fearless, always able and always stood by his convictions. In the house it was moved, by some one who favored the original bill, that the senate bill, which had not been amended, should be substituted for the house bill, which motion prevailed. The senate bill having been taken up and the above amendments moved, one of the most protracted and heated discussions of the session followed. It lasted all the afternoon, until after dark, the lobby of the house being filled with state officers and other spectators. I had prepared myself in advance with the data to prove, and did prove, that the bonds of other states at 4 per cent. were worth a premium, and I had caused an examination of the finances and income of the state to be made, to show that it was wholly unnecessary to postpone the first

PAYMENT OF INTEREST.

until 1884; that we were able to pay it at once, and it was therefore both wrong and unnecessary for the state to add the interest of the full sum of the old bonds and coupons up to 1884 to the principal, and that it was especially wrong to calculate that interest at 7 per cent. when we had the funds in the treasury to pay it, and when, according to the claim and proposition of even Mr. Chamberlain, only 5 per cent. had been demanded. I do not now recollect certainly whether Mr. McCracken took any part in the discussion in the house on the amendments. According to my recollection he did not, though he was just as earnest as I. If he did not, no one aided me in the discussion, or in the preparation for it, or in any way in the contest which was made: while, on the other side, there were very numerous speakers. All of those who finally approved the bond bill stood unflinchingly at every step. The bondholders' attorneys were in the house during the whole time, to be consulted by any one of that side, and prominent senators were busy in the house every minute during the discussion doing all they could to influence the members to vote against the amendments.

ENTER MR. FLETCHER.

The amendments were voted down. When the vote was taken I was exhausted and nearly discouraged. Mr. Fletcher, (the speaker of the house), at once came to me and addressed me in substantially these words:

"You are right. It would be an outrage on the people to permit that bill to pass in its present form, and it shall not pass until your views substantially have been incorporated into it. After listening to your argument there can be no doubt as to the matter. I am astonished that the senate passed it in that form, or that anyone should oppose your views. I voted against you now because I might be misunderstood if I did not. Between this time and the meeting of the house to-morrow morning I shall see the governor and Mr. Chamberlain and induce them, if I can, to assent to these amendments. I do not wish to oppose the governor; if possible I want to avoid it. But if I cannot induce him to consent I shall have to follow

MY OWN CONVICTIONS

of right and vote for the amendment. He told me at the same time that while I was talking he had spoken to D. M. Sabin, John F. Norish and, I believe, with S. G. Comstock, who agreed with him. As agreed, that night or next morning Mr. Fletcher, accompanied, I think, by the gentlemen named, had an interview with the governor and it was agreed, as Mr. Fletcher reported to me, that interest after the date of the bill on the old Minnesota railroad bonds should not be computed at 7 per cent., as in the bill it was provided, but at 5 per cent., and that the bill should be so modified that interest on the new bond should be at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent. (It will be recollected that the bill itself provided absolutely that the interest should be at 5 per cent.) But the understanding was that the interest should, as a matter of fact, be reduced to at least 4½ per cent., and

THE IMPRESSION

was carried to me that it would probable be reduced to four; but, by leaving the bill in the form proposed, Gov. Pillsbury could have the honor and credit of reducing the rate of interest at least one-half of 1 per cent. I was willing that the governor should have the glory if we could have the reduction of interest. I agreed, on the understanding that the bonds should not bear to exceed 4½ per cent. interest, because I could secure nothing better. I also agreed that the rate of interest after the date of the act should be reduced from 7 to 5 per cent. because I could gain nothing better. I was then informed (just before the house met) that the attorneys of Chamberlain (who were the men on whose advice the governor acted) were ready to meet me in

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

to agree on the wording of the amendments. I went at once to the governor's office and found there the attorneys (Gen. Cole and Hon. John M. Gilman), the governor and Mr. Chamberlain, and, according to my best recollection, Gen. Sibley. I then and there wrote out the amendments, which were assented to by the other parties present, and at once sent them up to the house to be offered by Col. Hicks. I was informed by Mr. Fletcher (and I agreed to it) that it would not do for me to introduce the amendments; that the governor and his friends must have the honor of reducing the interest. It is but justice to Mr. Fletcher and the other gentlemen named—but especially to Mr. Fletcher—to say that but for his intervention and emphatic action, these amendments could not have been carried through the house. They did pass the house and were adopted by the senate, and, in pursuance of the agreement, the state officers who issued the bonds fixed the rate of interest at 4½ per cent. Let us see how much these amendments saved the state and cost the bondholders. The bonds to be issued under the bill as above stated, were about $4,300,000. By the bill before the amendments it was absolutely provided and required that the bonds should draw 5 per cent. interest. Therefore, one-half of 1 per cent. was saved on the bonds issued, viz:

$21,500 ANNUALLY,

and (if the bonds run as long as it is provided they may) there will be saved by this amendment to the state $645,900; and, by the other, reducing the interest from 7 to 5 per cent. for a little over two years, as before explained, over $200,000. Indeed, this does not state nearly the full amount of the gain to the state, for, by the amendments thus made, the state saved interest from January, 1882, to January, 1884. After this, even if this were all, it could not be expected, and I well knew, that the railroad companies would not look on me with favor.

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The Saturday Review.

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