VILE CALUMNY.

Continued From First Page.

knows to be false. He could have known the truth by inquiry, and he would not dare to say it is so, because the record shows that it is not so. He goes on then to speak of a

CERTAIN IMAGINARY CONVERSATION

which may have taken place a number of years ago in my back office. Let me read you a little of what he says to show you how shrewd and devilish his purpose is, insinuating to the ordinary reader, who does not look at it, that he is stating a conversation that actually occurred. When you come to read it carefully, he is only insinuating an imaginary conversation that he does not pretend did occur. Let me read:

"I want to show you how his love for the people and hatred of monopolies have been blighted. Imagine an interview in the back office of this gentleman in Winona, some years ago, when the representatives of the great Chicago & Northwestern Railway company, the owners of the Winona & St. Peter railroad called upon him to secure his valuable services. When approached by them as to whether he could place himself as a shield between that corporation and the people, and bring his legal acumen and knowledge of legal technicalities to bear in its service, I fancy I hear him—"

And then he goes on and makes up a "fancied" statement of what I said, for the purpose of influencing the people of this district to believe that I did say that. Again, I call your attention to an alleged quotation from my speech by Windom. He read it as follows:

"Another point to which I call your attention is his extreme unselfishness. After reciting in his speech the wonderful things he has done for Winona and Lake City and other places: that he has recovered for Lake City $125,000, and obtained damages for Winona to the amount of $180,000, he says: 'I believe that I can truthfully assert, and prove by the record, that I have collected very much more from the railroad companies of the state than any attorney in the state. And the record shows, too, that in all these matters my acts have been unselfish and without fee or reward, except such reward as I got as a member of the community and by feeling that I have done my duty fearlessly.'"

He quotes this as a part of my speech. Let me read to you what I did say, and then compare it with what the senator says, and see if he intended to truthfully state what I said, or to misrepresent me. He misstates in saying that I had referred to the Lake City suit and the Winona suit, implying that I had referred to no other. In the speech to which he refers I had gone on to state my action on the bond bill that was in the legislature, and of the

EFFORTS WHICH I HAD MADE

to defeat the passage of that bill, and I had stated that, for the purpose of carrying through that bond bill, there had been attached to it a rider, in which it was provided that $150,000 should be given for the purpose of paying debts due for construction, etc., and that when that was introduced the owners of those claims, many of them residing in the city of Winona, came to me and desired me to take them for collection. I stated that I refused to take them because, being a member of the legislature, it would place my interests in opposition to my duty, and that they were given to others, who made several thousand dollars in fees out of them; that I refused because I deemed it my duty to oppose that bond bill from beginning to end. [Applause.] I stated, also, in that speech, that when these suits came up on the taxation of these lands in the supreme court of the state, I had acted without fee or reward, and not only that but that I had returned a fee which was sent me by the attorney general to aid him. By the way, I should here state too as to another matter, as to the cutting down of the interest on the state railroad lands. I was actuated merely by a desire to perform my duty, and there was no compensation or advantage that could possibly come to me. In those matters

I WAS ARRAYED AGAINST

the leading and prominent and wealthy men of the railroad companies. After stating these things I referred to the suit for the city of Winona and the suit for Lake City; and now let me read you what I said, further—I use the exact words so that you may see how honestly and truthfully the senator represents me. I said:

"I believe that I can truthfully assert and prove by the record that I have collected very much more from the railroad companies of the state than any other attorney in the state. And the record shows, too, that in the most important matters my acts have been unselfish and without fee or reward."

Windom says "I have done all this without fee or reward," and goes on to cite a case in the city of Winona, where in a private suit I got a fee, and then says: "Here, this man has lied, for he says he did all this 'without fee or reward.'" Does he, or does he not, misrepresent me? And when he quotes from my printed speech is there any excuse for such misrepresentation, except for the purpose of calumniating me? Farther he says let me read: "There is on file in the office of the city recorder of this city (Winona) a contract between Thomas Wilson and the city, dated Feb. 12, 1875, whereby, on consideration of the payment by the city to him of a fee of $10,000, and all necessary disbursements, he agreed to conduct that case. After it was concluded he brought in a bill of $16,000 against the city of Winona, instead of $10,000, as agreed, * * * and it was paid. What do you think of the truthfulness of a man who will say he did without fee or reward, when it is proven by the records that he got $16,000 for his services."

Now, as I have shown, I never said that I tried private suits without fee or reward; I never pretended such a thing. But I will show you, farther, that when William Windom says I agreed to try this private suit for $10,000, and then charged $16,000 for it, he deliberately and intentionally misrepresents me.

THIS IS A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE.

I have the records here and I will show you what the truth is in that matter. In the year 1872 the city of Winona agreed to give to the Minnesota Railway Construction company, a company which was made up of the leading men of the Chicago & Northwestern company and the Milwaukee & St. Paul company, such men as Alexander Mitchell, Russell Sage, Mr. Keep (the older one) and John W. Burke—$100,000 in case it would build the road to the city of Winona in a given time and in a given manner, and we very foolishly put our bonds into the hands of Horace Thompson, in the city of St. Paul, in escrow, he signing an agreement that he would re-deliver them to us if the conditions were not performed, and deliver them to the construction company if the conditions were performed. Before the conditions were performed Horace Thompson delivered these bonds over to the construction company, taking from them a bond to hold him harmless and letting us go. The bonds had been taken to the city of New York. I was called in as an attorney and my opinion asked, and I said the city had a remedy. I was employed to bring suit, and I brought it. We had certain weaklings in our council who wished to compromise. I said "No, my friends, don't compromise; you will appear hereafter as having repudiated 40 per cent. of your debt if you settle with these men, who are

NOT ENTITLED TO ONE FARTHING.

Go on with your suit." And to induce them to go on, I said I would agree to conduct these two suits, and if I didn't win against that company, I would charge nothing, but if I did win they should pay me $10,000. I have here the original contract, which was signed by the mayor of the city of Winona and Thomas Wilson. Now, let me read that contract, so you will see just what I did agree to do. [The contract is given without the legal verbiage.—ED. GLOBE.] The memorandum of agreement was dated Feb. 12, 1875, and was signed by A. F. Hodgins as mayor, and Thomas Wilson:

A suit was commenced in the United States circuit court in favor of N. A. Cowdry, against Winona, for a sum claimed to be due on the coupons of certain bonds of Winona, payable to Russell Sage, or bearer, for the benefit of the Minnesota Railway Construction company, and a suit had also been commenced by the city of Winona, and was pending in the district court of Minnesota for Steele county (on change of venue from Winona county) against Horace Thompson, as custodian of the bonds, and the Minnesota Construction company, for damages for the illegal and unauthorized delivery of the bonds and coupons by the custodian to his co-defendant, and for the conversion thereof by the latter, and Wilson was employed as attorney for Winona in both suits. It was agreed and stipulated by the mayor in consideration that Wilson would conduct these suits, that the city would pay him, as attorney's fees therefor, in case Winona obtained a final judgment in either, the sum of $10,000, and all the disbursements necessarily by Wilson made or incurred therein, or which had been made or incurred therein. Wilson was to have the sole control of the suits and each of them, and if either was compromised or settled without his consent, the fee shall at once become due and payable to him. In case the city was unsuccessful in both suits, Wilson should only receive the disbursements by him paid or for which he was liable.

THAT IS THE AGREEMENT WE ENTERED INTO.

After these suits had been carried on for some time, Russell Sage, Alexander Mitchell and N. A. Cowdry commenced three other suits against the city of Winona on some of those coupons which had been transferred to them, and in those three other suits I was again employed as attorney of the city. They were all commenced in the circuit court of the United States. I went down to the city of New York and examined there Mr. Russell Sage and other witnesses. I went to Milwaukee and examined there Alexander Mitchell, and I conducted those suits through the circuit court of the United States, and for those three suits I charged $6,000. For the two suits in which they made the contract, I charged $10,000 and not 1 cent more. I quote literally from the records of the city of Winona, which show this:

"Meeting held March 28, 1882. Judge Wilson presented a statement of the suits of the city against the Minnesota Construction company. He explained that three additional suits were begun, one by Alexander Mitchell, one by Russell Sage and one by N. A. Cowdry. In defending these suits his bill for services, covering a period of seven years, was $6,000. The disbursements, as itemized in the bill, were $289.75, making the whole amount of the bill $16,289.75, of which $10,000 was his fee on the principal suit, in accordance with his agreement with the city. The bill was, on motion, allowed, all voting aye on the call of the roll."

I have quoted from the records of the city. The city council agrees to that bill, and in the suits in which they first employed me they pay me $10,000, as they agreed in their written contract; in the three suits in which they subsequently employed me they pay me $6,000. Mr. Windom's statement shows that he had

CONSULTED THESE RECORDS,

and that he must have known the truth when he made such a false and calumniating accusation. Nothing can add to the conclusiveness of this proof, or more clearly demonstrate the wanton wickedness of his charges. Notice, it is not pretended that my fee was too high. He merely makes these charges to show that I have falsified. I tried them once through the supreme court of the United States, twice through the circuit court of the United States, two or three times through the supreme court of the state, twice through the district courts of the state, and I gained a verdict and judgment—which I collected—of between $180,000 and $190,000 for the city of Winona; and there don't live on this earth a man fit to try those suits that won't say that my fee was extremely low. I spent much of my time for seven years working for nothing but what no man ever worked before—[Applause]—impelled by a desire to beat those men who had attempted to defraud and plunder our people. And yet that man comes up with that record, which he quotes part of and leaves the balance out, and says I have lied before these people, and that I have, before the people of this city of Winona, made a charge of $16,000 for that which I agreed to do for $10,000. Permit me to say that these lies have gone broadcast, as it was intended they should; they are being discussed in hundreds of houses in this district at this time, just as it was intended they should be. This gentlemen again refers to a Green Bay subscription in the city of Winona, for he is determined to show that I am a bad man. Let me read:

"Again he says he has always been against all kinds of subsidies. When the Green Bay railroad wanted to come to Winona Judge Wilson was acting as attorney for the president. He and others induced the people to subscribe, I think, $36,000, with the understanding that the city was to reimburse the subscribers when the power to vote should be obtained from the legislature. When they got the power to vote Judge Wilson was one of the parties who exerted their influence to prevent reimbursing said subscribers. It is understood that his own subscription was paid by legal services."

The records I cannot give, but I will give you names that will make it equally as certain. The Green Bay company, when it came to the city of Winona, offered to build into Winona in a given time if certain help was given. The people of Winona got together and said, we have no power to give a bonus, but when the next legislature meets, if any persons in the city will subscribe now, we will indemnify them and refund the amount of their subscriptions. Certain persons went on and subscribed, raising $36,000, more or less, by subscription, which they agreed to give to that company if it would come to Winona within a given time and build in a given manner. I was one of the subscribers, subscribing $500. Windom says: It is understood I paid my subscription in attorney's fees. You always insinuate, you know, when you want to get a falsehood abroad and dare not state it. I paid my subscription in my check on the bank, which was in money—every dollar of it. I was not the attorney of the president of that company. When he came and got that subscription I tried, with the people of our city, to get it down just as low as it could be gotten, but, on the contrary from what he asserts here, that I tried to prevent the city from reimbursing those who had thus paid, I went to St. Paul and did my best to get through the legislature a bill to reimburse them. Hon. Earl S. Youmans, one of the most prominent and honored citizens of Winona, was on the other side opposing me. We appeared and argued the question before the committee of the legislature, and after the law passed I voted in favor of refunding to the subscribers. But for the purpose of showing that I am a dishonorable fellow and bad man, and in the face of the facts, he says that I opposed reimbursing these men. He didn't dare to have his speech published in Winona. There lived Hon. Earl S. Youmans, there lived the people that knew that every word of this was a falsehood and a calumny. This statement by him is false in every item and particular. [Applause].

He goes on further and speaks of the Pugh case—a private case—where he says I got certain moneys I ought not to have gotten, and $25 of it was an attorney's fee that went into my pocket

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THIS:

A suit was commenced against the railroad company at Winona by a man named Irvice Pugh. Mr. Windom says in this case that I admitted that there was a certain amount due to Pugh, that he was badly hurt, and that I offered him the sum of $150 by way of compromise. I saw that in the paper; I thought I knew the man who gave him that information. It is the man Tawney that you remember says they have delivered over to Mr. Lovely 3,000 Knights of Labor in Winona. He was the man who had the conduct of that suit. I went to him just before I left Winona, and said:

"Mr. Tawney, did you tell Mr. Windom that I admitted that there was anything due to Mr. Pugh, or that I offered him $150 to compromise?"

"No, sir; I never told any such thing."

"Will you sign a letter to that effect, Mr. Tawney?"

"Well," he hesitated, and—"Y-e-s, I'll sign a letter that I never said so to Windom."

"Mr. Tawney, will you sign a letter that that is not true, as far as you know."

"Well, it's not true, as far as I know," he says.

"Well," he sat and thought. After awhile said he:

"Well, once when you and I were taking depositions you said: 'Tawney, you'd better accept a check of $150 and let us go home and have no more trouble.'"

Said I: "Mr. Tawney, if I said that, was it said in earnest in way of a proposition of settlement, or by way of joke or badinage?"

Said he: "I never understood it to be in earnest."

Said I: "Mr. Tawney, will you sign a letter to that effect?"

Well, Tawney sat there looking into vacant space, evidently at a loss to decide whether it was best to injure an adversary by a falsehood or to tell the truth. I added: "Mr. Tawney, do you mean to say that you are willing that a falsehood should go forth to the detriment of your neighbor, and that you, knowing it to be a falsehood, wont make a statement over your hand that it is a falsehood?"

And when I left him, Tawney was still looking into space and hadn't the courage to say: "Aye, yes or no."

And Mr. Windom gets that remark in a private suit, and the man that gave it to him says it was never made or intended to be made in any thing else than a joke—if it was made—(I don't believe it ever was made)—but that there

WAS NO INTENTION OR UNDERSTANDING

that it should be a compromise; and then he puts it before the people and says that Wilson tried to injure that man. And he says, further, "Wilson collected certain fees, etc." Their complaint being defective I moved to make it more certain, so that we would know what the ground of the suit was. Judge Start decided against me and I appealed to the supreme court, and the supreme court said I had a right to have it more certain, and then it came back. I had not one farthing's interest in the matter and I never got a cent out of it, directly or indirectly, except my fee, and everything that was done was done properly and in the ordinary administration of justice.

The senator goes on and says, further:

"Where was Wilson when the tissue ballots were being used in the South? Where was Wilson when the shot-gun policy of the South was being carried out?"

Why, of course, I was helping make those tissue ballots and helping to load those shotguns. My friends, is this argument to be adduced before a sober audience? If it is necessary for me to get up and answer this before an audience of Fillmore county, then I have lived in vain.

Mr. Windom keeps gaining strength as he goes along. In a later speech he says:

"Judge Wilson, while in the legislature in 1881, attempted to procure the passage of a bill ostensibly to tax railroad lands, but really to enable the holders of tax titles upon railroad lands, which had been sold under contract, to have their names substituted for those of the original purchasers of such lands without notice to the latter."

Now, my friends, this is a grave charge. Any man who attempts, by any hocus pocus, to aid these tax-title sharks is about as bad a man as you can imagine. I had supposed that my whole life had stood in opposition to that class of men; but Mr. Windom says that this bill, which I introduced into the legislature and vigorously favored for three consecutive sessions, and which had hitherto been supposed to be a very laudable bill, was for the purpose of helping tax-title sharks to cheat the people out of their land. The Pioneer Press re-echoes the charge. Let's look at it. In 1881, when I went to the legislature, as I stated to you, I found evidence which satisfied me that certain rich men, not only residing in Eastern cities, but in our own state, were holding their land exempt from taxation. This extended to between two and three million acres in this state. I went to work and drew up a bill providing

FOR THE TAXATION OF THOSE LANDS

and compelling those parties to pay their taxes. The lands were held ostensibly as the lands of and in the name of the railroad company, but in fact belonging to these wealthy men, inside and outside of the state of Minnesota. I introduced a bill in which I provided most minutely that any such special stock, any such devices whatever, should be construed as giving an interest to those parties which would be taxable, and that they should be taxed. And then I added this section to the bill, so as to make it dangerous for the railroad company to try longer to assist them to evade payment of their taxes.

"If any railroad company shall issue any land stock, or special stock, or any certificate, contract or writing, conveying, granting or giving to the holder thereof any interest, estate, right or title in or to any lands held by said company and exempted from taxation as aforesaid, and shall fail, within sixty days after the issuance of such certificate, stock, contract or writing, to report the same to the land commissioner or auditor of this state; or, if having heretofore issued such contract, stock, certificate or writing, shall fail to report the same within sixty days after the passage of this act, the failure to so report shall be held to be and operate as a forfeiture by said company of its corporate franchises and privileges, and the attorney general of the state shall at once proceed against said company to have its charter and franchises declared forfeited."

Before that bill was introduced every man who bought an acre of land from the railroad company or got a contract, had to pay his tax under the pre-existing law. It was made the duty of the company, and the company in these cases was bound to report that at once, and they did report it at once. But, where they gave this special stock to their directors and stockholders those interested were not reported, but intentionally kept hidden.

THEY KEPT THOSE BACK

and claimed that the land was still the land of the railroad company and not the land of those owners. To oppose that bill they kept a lobby in attendance such as I have never but once before seen here at the capital. I not only drew the bill and obtained the evidence to show that the lands were taxable, but I also argued the case in behalf of the state not less than twenty times before the several committees and on the floor of the house and senate. The Pioneer Press, when this was the fight, did not to my recollection say one word against these millionaires, who were thus avoiding the taxes, or in favor of any attempt to tax their property. The attorney general—although it was peculiarly his place to do so—never, so far as I know, opened his mouth in favor of that bill or measure to effect that purpose. On the contrary, unless the statements of numerous senators and members are unreliable, he quietly and continually discouraged such action. The first year that the bill was introduced I have good reason to know that he favored it. The last two sessions, more especially the last, I have the best reason to know that he opposed it. I knew I had incurred the lasting enmity of those wealthy men whom I had the audacity to attack. I had reason to believe that the Pioneer Press would aid them in abusing me or any man who would dare to expose their fraudulent scheme. I knew they were able to call to their assistance some who are now found to be their allies. The charge that the bill looked to, and could have any other effect then to make these men pay their just taxes, is so manifestly untrue that it is impossible to believe that the men who now make this charge do not know its falsity. The object and operation of that bill was so fully shown in the legislature at different times, and the purpose of this charge at this time is so obvious, I am hardly excusable for taking so much time on it. The bill was introduced at the session of 1881; again at the extra session of 1881, at the session of 1883, and again at the session of 1885, and not until a few days before an election, at which I am a candidate, has it been discovered by any one that it was intended to or could effect aught else than tax the lands of those millionaires. Since I have been in the legislative body I have held that this thing of rich men escaping from taxation and compelling poor men to pay their taxes was an outrage that was intolerable, and I have said on the stump that I believed we would have to come to the point of putting on an income tax, that men like those whom I have named (and Senator Windom is one of them), who are trying to evade their taxes, and make poor people pay them, must be compelled to pay on their income. These millionaires say it wont do to have this man Wilson going around in this manner, and hence the cry goes forth to put him down, and they get this man Windom, with sanctimonious face, to come before you, concocting these falsehoods, which I have now disproved. Let me show you something of the reason why this man feels so anxious about that. A few years ago Gov. Davis made a speech at Vasa, in the county of Goodhue, in this state, in which he paid his respects to the Hon. William Windom and told something about him. By the way, I know the Hon. William Windom, and, permit me to say that when Mr. Windom went to congress, if his friends hadn't lent him money to buy the suit of clothes with which to go, and to pay his expenses there, he would have

HAD TO STAY AT HOME.

[Laughter and applause, and a voice, "He didn't have money enough to buy his supper."] He was my partner; I knew him personally; he was worth less than nothing when he went to congress, and though I know something as to how he made his wealth I am not going to bring myself into this controversy with him, but I will read you what Gov. Davis says about him—and Gov. Davis has told me, over and over again, that he himself examined the records as an attorney of the Northern Pacific Railroad company, and, to use his own expression, "The record of Windom's iniquity in this transaction is the most damning that I ever knew." Here is what he says, as reported in the St. Paul Dispatch, Nov. 6, 1882;

Gov. Davis there referred to Windom's connection with the Northern Pacific railroad, and never was an indictment more forcibly or more thoroughly sustained by the facts whereof he spoke. A showing was made in the courts of New York and the fact developed that of the last issue of stock Mr. Windom received $200,000 worth, as his share; that a portion of the preferred stock was by him converted into lands granted to the railroad company by the government, to assist in the building of the road. The speaker gave the section, township and range of each parcel secured by Windom, which amounted to 19,320 acres of the best land in Dakota. The details of the whole transaction were given by Gov. Davis and supported by the records of the case. There was but one conclusion to be drawn from such a showing, and Mr. Windom could not deny the charges. This representative of the state of Minnesota, while he was a member of congress, senator and secretary of the treasury, was a stockholder of the Northern Pacific railroad, and a sharer of the spoils. Then the orator became the lawyer, and the eloquence of words gave way before the eloquence of facts. "Gentlemen of the jury," took the place of "fellow citizens," and the audience sat in judgment in the jury box. Beginning with the organization of the Northern Pacific he showed Mr. Windom, then a member of congress from Minnesota, to be one of the directors, and the amount of the bonds to be used was limited by the charter, it also required that it should be sold for cash, but after giving Jay Cooke $20,000 of stock to float the bonds, the balance was divided among twelve persons, Windom being one, and they never paid a dollar. The Northern Pacific failed in 1873 and was sold to the stockholders, but if they had paid cash for their stock, as required by the charter, there

WOULD HAVE BEEN NO FAILURE.

Gov. Davis, as the attorney of Villard, had personal knowledge of these corrupt transactions of Windom, and verified his statements by the production of the legal documents.

Mr. Windom is anxious to defeat me because, for one thing, he knows I am opposed to the watering of railroad stock, and if I get to congress I shall attempt, to the best of my ability, to get through a bill that will make it a penal offence to water stock [applause] or to issue one dollar of stock without paying for it.

I have said, too, that these rich men must pay their taxes. Now let me show you what taxes William Windom has been paying. He lives, he says, in Winona. I have here a certificate of the auditor of our county, where his personal property is taxable. He is known to be a millionaire. Since in congress he became connected with this Northern Pacific road. He has grown to be one of the wealthy men of this nation. Ever since he has been out of congress, if you have noticed, he is in Mexico looking after this railroad project, or this grant, or mine; there he is in Wall street in this money speculation; there again he is organizing a new board of exchange in the city of New York, and doing those things that take millions.

Now, let me read to you this man's tax-roll for his personal property. Let me read and see if that man would feel happy when I am saying that one of the crying evils of the day is that rich men are casting their burdens on the poor. A few facts, my friends, will show the animus of this thing. In 1876 he returned that he had $1,880; in 1877, $2,467; in 1878 he returned none; in 1879, none; in 1880, none; in 1881, none; in 1882, none; in 1883, none; in 1884, none; in 1885, none. One or two of these years he was traveling with his family in Europe, and yet he hadn't a cent—that was subject to taxation as personal property. [Laughter and applause.] Now, then, in 1886, his return is made to the assessor in our county—sworn to—and let me read it to you. He says: "One sewing machine, worth $15; watch or clock, $175; gold plate and plated ware, $50; diamonds and jewelry, $250; all other articles of personal property (this would, of course, include bonds, money, etc.), not included in the preceding, $40!" [Laughter and applause.] Forty dollars! [Renewed laughter.] His jewelry and diamonds amount to $250, and all his other personal property, not included in the above item, $40! [Laughter and applause.] No, sir: William Windom don't want me to go to congress. And he don't want the people of this country stirred up to feel that millionaires must pay their share of the taxes. And he don't want the "heresy" preached around this district that watering of stock is a criminal offense. That is morally just as bad as breaking into your bins and taking a part of your wheat, and he can't tolerate it; hence he makes this attack against Mr. Wilson. Good bye, Mr. Windom. I will answer you no farther. [Tremendous applause.]

I AM PROUD OF MY RECORD.

I had been nominated only a few days when they started out in the several counties in which I had practiced law, looking up my record. And they come out with those things.

The editor of the Pioneer Press takes up this effort of mine to tax railroad lands, and he declares, too, that it was done as a kind of tax-shark operation; and one thing of which he complains above everything else is this: He says that in that bill I provided that when these lands were put on the tax list it should not be necessary to state the name of the owner of the land or the claimant of the land; and he says this was it great wrong to the claimant. Certainly! Let us see how this would work. This special stock may be in your pocket to-day, in mine to-morrow, and in some ones else next day; hence no one could tell who was the owner or claimant of the land, and if it was required that such statement should be made, the collection of a tax would be simply impossible. The difference between me and the Pioneer Press is simply this: I wished to tax these lands, it did not, hence the difference in our methods. In other words, that bill is drawn so that Alex Mitchell, Russell Sage, Selah Chamberlain and the rest of them shall have to pay their tax, and so that by no legal legerdemain or hocus pocus can they get rid of it. But, says the Pioneer Press, also, there is another thing:

WILSON'S BILL WAS GOOD.

That is, it says so one day, the next it is very bad. It keeps growing worse on me every day. [Laughter.] "Wilson's bill is good, that was all right, but the thing that did good above all others was that which was thought of by Attorney General Hahn, and which was never thought of by Wilson, to-wit: These quo warranto proceedings." Now, my friends, I thought when that was published in the Pioneer Press that it was one of the statements of the editor made without the cognizance of my former friend, the attorney general, but later developments make me think to the contrary. Permit me to say that I hold in my hand the original bill introduced by me and referred to the judiciary committee of the senate, by which it was made the duty of the attorney general imperatively to commence those suits; and never, until after that bill was introduced and pending in the senate did the attorney general commence or attempt to commence those suits. And there is the original bill, with the original filings upon it to show it, and if you look at the date of the commencement of the suits you will find that it was long after that.

The attorney general is a man whom I have thought very much of, and to-day I don't believe he could be bought for money; but he has not the force of character to resist the crowd that surrounds him and the pressure that has been brought to bear on him. Hence he, too, has come out and attacked me, and he says that I am claiming credit for certain things that don't belong to me, and that he and his brother-in-law are entitled to certain credit, not myself. Will you let me read a letter or two from the attorney general to show you how much truth there is in this, and with what good grace that comes from him. Mr. Hahn, permit me to say, from beginning to end, from first to last, in everything that pertained to these tax matters, has consulted with me, gotten his facts from me, conferred with me about the law, and acted on my suggestions from the very beginning. A letter or two will show how much truth there is in this, and when he comes forward and says I am claiming credit in this I don't deserve, I deem it not only proper, but my duty, to call attention to this. He says, in one of his letters to me, dated St. Paul, Oct. 28, 1884:

Hon. Taomas Wilson: Dear Sir—I have just tried the tax case vs. St. Paul & Sioux City railroad. If not too much trouble will you be kind enough to indicate, in brief, your views of the legal question. I endeavored to state to the court what I supposed were your ideas, but I have the right to file brief, and if you will indicate as above, I will embody the same in a brief. Yours truly,

W. J. HAHN.

LET ME READ ANOTHER.

ST. PAUL, May 2, 1885.—Hon. Thomas Wilson: Dear Sir—I hand you statement for $100 as retainer in tax cases. This, of course, is a mere nothing for the argument you will make, but, if possible, I will add something more. Now, as to the line of argument. As to the St. Paul & Chicago (case), I must say that I am at an utter loss how to formulate any argument that is at all sound. The only course that suggests itself is this: To claim that they had no authority to issue the preferred stock. But that leaves us worse off than if they had. Will you be kind enough to say, in a brief way, the points that suggest themselves to you.

And so he goes on. That is the case which we gained in the supreme court, by the way. I returned him the $100 retainer, but I went ahead and made my brief, and I went to St. Paul and argued the case in the supreme court, and the supreme court—contrary to what Atty. Gen. Hahn here indicates—reversed the judgment of the court below and ordered 400,000 acres of land put upon the tax roll. Here is another letter:

ST. PAUL, Nov. 23, 1885, Hon. Thomas Wilson—Dear Sir: Judge Clark has noticed the case of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad company vs. McDonald, etc., for trial at the December term of the district court of Hennepin county. I desire you to assist me in the trial of the case, and sincerely hope you can do so. It will be necessary that immediate steps be taken to prepare testimony for trial. Please send me the name of any witnesses that you think should be subpœnaed, and if foreign witnesses, who, before what notary public, and what line of examination should be followed, in your view of the recent decision of the supreme court. If you think it best, I will go to Winona and see you relative to above, at any time that will suit your convenience.

Now, remember that all this is being done

BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

when I was not receiving a farthing for the advice I was giving, and when it was no more my duty than it was yours to take part in this thing. Comment cannot be necessary. No one can fail to see who it was that was back of the attempt to tax these lands. No member of the legislature, or state officer, for the past four years who is possessed of a grain of truth or honor will deny that I instituted these proceedings, advised and pointed out the steps to be taken, and without fee or reward took on myself the brunt of the battle. In the legislature such men as Senator Knudson, Senator Comstock and many others always were anxious to aid and second every movement—but they always looked to me to take the lead in the fight which I had commenced. And Attorney General Hahn never took a single step in the courts touching this matter without first writing to me or coming to me to consult and get my suggestions. Here is another letter:

The case of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railway company vs. F. S. McDonald et al. will come on for trial at the April term of the district court of Hennepin county. I would like very much, as I wrote you before, to have your assistance in the preparation and trial of the case.

Assistance! when I would take no money. Assistance! when I was not attorney in the case. Assistance! Why? Because as a citizen of the state of Minnesota he knew I had instituted these proceedings and wanted to bring the stockholders and officers of those roads into court and compel them to pay their tax. The attorney general adds:

In the preparation, at least, to the extent of suggestions. I will do the work. What witnesses that were heretofore examined, should, in your opinion, be examined upon this trial, and upon what additional points should any of them be examined? What new witnesses are there that should be examined and upon what particular line? I would be very much pleased to have you indicate, in a general way, the character of the evidence that we should introduce and the source from which it can, in your opinion, be obtained, and I will proceed to examine the parties, etc.

I will read no farther. Those are the letters of the attorney general. I ask you to put those opposite his statement that he makes now, that Wilson doesn't deserve the credit for taxing these lands, and say which is to be relied upon.

THE TROUBLE IS HERE.

Mr. Hahn was appointed by Gov. Pillsbury. He is among that crowd of men who have such an immense pecuniary interest in keeping the lands untaxed. I have seen for the past two years that he had grown colder and averse to pushing that matter. I have urged him. Between him and me there never has been ought but friendship, except the coldness—a little more than coldness—which has grown upon him just because I insisted and persisted in compelling the taxation of these lands. But the trouble is that he is not a man of sufficient character to resist that crowd of men, and no one who has not come in contact with them can appreciate the amount of moral force of character which it requires to stand up against them fearlessly. In seeking to obtain evidence in St. Paul I found that very many men who were willing and anxious to give information insisted that their names should not be known. To an attorney, especially, their friendship is valuable. I, therefore, well understood why the attorney general grew averse to running counter to them. But I did not suppose he could be induced to misrepresent and defame me. But he is weaker or their power is greater than I supposed. They have so far overcome and humiliated him as to force him to come out and belie the man from whom his own letters show he was getting his ideas—the man on whom he leaned and to whom he looked in every step he took. But I turn from Mr. Hahn in pity—not in anger. I from my heart pity a man who is not big enough to resist such influences.

When I came to Chatfield yesterday a gentleman came into my room, holding in his hand a little sheet called the Plainview News. "Why," says he, "there's a man in the town distributing these papers broadcast to everybody." If you will read that Plainview News you will find it as full of calumny as the statements of Mr. Windom. If you know Paradis, the editor of the Plainview News, you will now that there is nothing necessary except to state that that language was written by Paradis. [Great laughter.] I went to Plainview and Elgin a few weeks ago and delivered a speech. I showed by the records that the allegations made against me were so garbled as to create a false impression, and at the close of my remarks the cheers went up from that house showing that the people were not misled by the charges. Is Paradis doing this as the hired creature of some person who means to malign me, or is that man, the editor of an unknown and insignificant paper, sending these things around at his own expense, as a matter of duty. Judge ye! [Laughter.] Good-bye, Paradis. [Renewed laughter.]

Now, my friends, I have got through with all these calumnies. Perhaps I should not have dignified them by an answer. The animus of all the authors is apparent.

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Confirmation of Assessment for Grading Francis Street.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, CITY OF ST. PAUL, MINN., Oct. 21, 1886.

The assessment of benefits, costs and expenses arising from the grading of Francis street, from Arcade street to English street, in the City of St. Paul, Minnesota, having been completed by the Board of Public Works in and for said city, said Board will meet at their office in said city at 7:30 p. m. on the 2d day of November, A. D. 1886, to hear objections (if any) to said assessment, at which time and place, unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, said assessment will be confirmed by said Board.

The following is a list of the supposed owners' names, a description of the property benefited and the amounts assessed against the same, to-wit:

Stinson's Subdivision of Block 96, Lyman Dayton's Addition to St. Paul.

Supposed owner and description.	Lot.	Benefits
James Stinson	12	$167 00
William Constance	11	78 50
J W Petter	10	78 50
James Stinson	9	78 50
Otto Streissguth	8	78 50
Same	7	78 50
Same	6	78 50
Henrietta Kinkerfuss	5	78 50
Otto Streissguth	4	78 50
Same	3	78 50
Margaret Queally	2	78 50
Mary O'Connor	1	78 50

Daily's & Berrisford's Subdivision of Block 95, Lyman Dayton's Addition to St. Paul.

Supposed owner and description.	Lot.	Benefits
T Berrisford and P Daily	14,15&16	$196 50
Same and same	13	78 50
Same and same	12	78 50
Same and same	11	78 50
Same and same	10	78 50
Same and same	9	78 50
Same and same	8	78 50
Same and same	7	78 50
Same and same	6	78 50
Same and same	5	78 50
Same and same	4	78 50
Same and same	1&2	180 75

Lyman Dayton's Addition to St. Paul.

Supposed owner and description.	Block.	Benefits
Julia A Eagan	94	$713 25

H W Grube's Subdivision of Block 97, Lyman Dayton's Addition to St. Paul.

Supposed owner and description.	Lot.	Benefits
H W Grube	26&27	$235 50
J C Meyer	25	78 50
Maria H Williams	24	78 50
H W Grube	23	78 50
Same	22	78 50
Same	21	78 50
Alfred Swanman	20	78 50
J H Koch	19	78 50
W F L Gruelle	18	78 50
Chas J Hansen	16&17	180 75

Lyman Dayton's Addition to St. Paul.

Supposed owner and description.	Block.	Benefits
J C Turley, W'ly ½ of	98	$589 50
John M Lynch, E'ly ½ of	98	589 50

Snow & Miller's Subdivision of Block 99, Lyman Dayton's Addition to St. Paul.

Supposed owner and description.	Lot.	Benefits
The Church of St John	16	$114 00
Same	17	78 50
Same	18	78 50
Same	19	78 50
Same	20	78 50
Same	21	78 50
Same	22	78 50
Same	23	78 50
Same	24	78 50

Kumle's Addition to St. Paul.

Supposed owner and description.	Lot.	Block.	Benefits
G Molin	1	1	$88 50
E G Halle et al	2	1	88 50
J H Weed et al	3	1	88 50
E G Halle et al	4	1	88 50
Same et al	5	1	88 50
Same et al	1, 2, 3&4	2	235 50
Same et al	5	2	78 50
Same et al	6	2	78 50
Same et al	7	2	78 50
Same et al	8	2	78 50
Same et al	9	2	78 50
Same et al	10	2	78 50
Same et al	11	2	78 50
Same et al	12	2	78 50
Same et al	13	2	78 50
Same et al	14	2	78 50
Same et al	15	2	78 50
Same et al	16	2	78 50
Same et al	1	3	78 50
Same et al	2	3	78 50
Same et al	3	3	78 50
Same et al	4	3	78 50
Same et al	5	3	78 50
Same et al	6	3	78 50
Same et al	7	3	78 50
Same et al	8	3	78 50
Same et al	9	3	78 50
Same et al	1	6	94 50
Same et al	2	6	88 50
Same et al	3	6	88 50
Same et al	4	6	88 50
Same et al	5	6	88 50
Same et al	1,2&3	5	235 50
Same et al	4	5	78 50
Same et al	5	5	78 50
Same et al	6	5	78 50
Same et al	7	5	78 50