

NOT BUSY ON BILLS

RAMSEY'S SENATORS, EXCEPT OZMUN, HAVEN'T SETTLED DOWN TO WORK.

GRIEVING OVER SPILT MILK.

THE UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF A BILL OF LAST YEAR WORRYING POTTGEISER.

STATUS OF SPEAKERSHIP FIGHT.

Jones Seems to Have the Prize With in His Grasp—Clerkship is Still Unsettled.

The matter of proposed legislation for St. Paul and Ramsey county during the coming session is not being discussed to any great extent, at least not by the members of the delegation. Senator Stevens, in speaking of the matter yesterday, said that he was going to suggest that preparations be made for a meeting of the St. Paul delegation, at which the question of needed legislation could be discussed. Up to the present time he had heard nothing, but in his opinion it would be the proper thing for the delegation to consult with the council committees on legislation and the city and county officers, as well as those interested in the welfare of the city. It is probable that such a meeting will be arranged for at an early date.

Senator Pottgeiser thinks that it does not do much good to secure legislation for the public good and pointed to the bills passed by the delegation two years ago. It was rather disappointing, he thought, to know that nearly all the work done two years ago which amounted to anything had been knocked in the head by the courts. The bill abolishing the board of public works, which the senator said was demanded by a majority of the voters, had been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. The bill placing the county officers on a salary and requiring them to turn the fees into the county treasury had not been decided by the courts as illegal, but he had been advised that when it came up it would meet with the same disposition. He and the other members of the delegation had worked hard and secured the passage of the bills mentioned, for the



J. D. Jones
Leading Candidate for Speaker of the House.

reason that the public demanded their passage. This unconstitutional business, the senator said, was getting to be the fad, and the wishes of the general public in the interests of economy were being overlooked. In view of the decision of the courts and the law which prevented special legislation, the senator saw no other relief than that provided under the Sheehan charter bill. There were several things he had in mind which would, he thought, be of much moment to the public welfare, but he did not care to discuss them before the delegation had met and talked over matters.

Senator Ozmun says there is little need of legislation for the city or county. With a few amendments to the Howard charter bill, such as having the mayor appoint the chief of police, the chief of the fire department and the members of the board of water commissioners, and also fixing the limit to be expended by the various departments annually, Senator Ozmun was in favor of having the law made absolute without having it voted on by the people. This, however, was only his personal views on the question, and as he had not conferred with his colleagues,

means home government, was put in force, it would be practically impossible to secure effective legislation of a municipal character. The legislation which the people seemed to be clamoring for, such as reduction of salaries, turning fee offices into salaried ones and doing away with boards, would be subject to the same decision which was handed down regarding the board of public works. When the law regarding the salary changes and the board of public works was passed two years ago, Mr. Jones said that he took the position that they would not be sustained by the courts and so declared publicly. At this time he failed to see how it was possible to do anything to change municipal conditions, except through the Sheehan law.

Three familiar faces that will be seen at the coming session will be those of Thomas Torson, of St. James; D. F. McGrath, of Barnesville, and O. B. Soule, of Washington county. Each of them occupied a seat in the last legislative session and was active in the business of the session. Mr. Torson was born in Wisconsin and came to Minnesota in 1854. Until twenty-one he lived on a farm and attended the public school. He spent two years at the Mankato Normal school and afterward taught school and clerked in a store. For nineteen years he held the office of register of deeds of his county, retiring Jan. 1, 1895. He has also been a member of the city council of St. James and acted for several years as chief justice of the peace. He was elected in 1894 to the legislature without opposition and filled the position with such satisfaction that he was re-elected for the office again last fall. During the session of '95 Mr. Torson was a member of the committee on agriculture, taxes and roads and bridges. D. F. McGrath was born in Appleton, Wis., in 1858. He came to Minnesota in 1864 and settled in Barnesville, Clay county, where he has resided since. He is engaged in farming and general merchandise business, and has held the office of mayor, city treasurer and alderman in Barnesville. He was exceedingly popular during the session of two years ago and held a place on four committees, railroads, drainage, taxes and forestry and fire protection. O. B. Soule, returned as one of the representatives from the Twenty-third district, has lived in Washington county for forty years, and is engaged in farming. He was born in Franklin county, Maine, and came to Minnesota in 1856. During the session two years ago he was a member of the committee on public lands and a member of the committees on insurance, agriculture and prison labor.

"I'll tell you what the trouble is with the various candidates who are mentioned for the speakership of the house," said a well-posted member of the delegation yesterday. "All of the would-be speakers are counting too much on their own personal popularity. It is possible that if the opponents of Jones are to go together and fight by selecting one of their number, and then doing some hard work and promising everything asked or thought of, they might make a showing. In fact, this is the case with each of the candidates, who are said by their friends to be developing strength and closing up on Jones, are trusting to the fact that they can outstep the idea that a lot more will come to them in the wind-up. Talk about politicians being smart, why it seems to me that the actions and talks made by what the newspapers call knowing politicians prove just the opposite.

"Why, if I had—" but just at this juncture one of the steering committee men for a candidate for a minor position came up and persuaded the third house man to go and have a cigar, and more of his schemes and plans were not learned.

A telegram from Washington announces that L. F. Hunt, editor of the Mankato Review, is a candidate for public printer. This is one of the best positions in the gift of the president outside of the cabinet, and the principal diplomatic appointments. The salary is \$4,000, and several thousand employees are under his direction. The government printing office is the largest and the best equipped printing establishment in the world, and the place is one which never goes begging for candidates.

In this connection, it is whispered that C. C. Whitney, editor of the Marshall News Messenger, and the present state printer of Minnesota, is also casting a fond glance in the same direction. What chance either of these gentlemen have is purely problematical.

The close of another week shows no change in the speakership contest. Jones has considerably the best of the race, notwithstanding the talk about the field combining to beat him. There are those who, while not desiring to have it announced publicly as coming from any particular person, say it has reached a stage where he cannot be beaten.

The fight for the house clerkship between Dowling and Dean is also unchanged, at least on the surface. Dowling, while hustling around, seems

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SEVENTH AND ROBERT STREETS, ST. PAUL.

to be satisfied that he will win out, and Dean and his friends profess to feel confident that the Owatonna man will pull off the prize.

Minneapolis' interest in her present lively contest for the clerkship, Charles F. Haney, for nearly a score of years



THOMAS TORSON.

The incumbent, having declared his determination not to be a candidate for re-election, is scarcely second to speculation as to what is to become of Haney.

He has announced that he will remove to Mexico, to look after his investments in quicksilver and other mining properties, and it is hinted by the retiring city clerk that he intends to make his future home there. However that may be, the Globe has reliable information that wherever Mr. Haney makes his home, he will be well taken care of by President-elect McKinley, when the incoming administration gets under way. When Maj. McKinley presided over the deliberations of the National Republican convention at Minneapolis in 1892, he found Mr. Haney to be not only the possessor of a powerful voice, but an efficient clerk, and an agreeable companion, and it was then there began the friendship which no doubt led to the present solicitude of the president-elect as to the future welfare of his associate at that time. What the position is which will be provided for Mr. Haney the Globe is not at liberty to

state. Another thing that lends authority to the prediction is the fact that Mr. Haney's father and McKinley were college chums and warm personal friends.

The fight between John Zelch, the present boiler inspector for the Fourth district, and his predecessor, that other Washington county wheel-horse, J. B. Sutton, has not lost any of its venom during the last week, although the casual observer of the chance meetings of the two men would not suspect them of the bitterest political enmities. It has come to a stage now, however, where only one common ground may be found for them, and that is that they are both in favor of Washington county having the place, as it has now. Even this is modified, however, by a desire to see the place abolished, with its prototypes in the other districts of the state. If the other man was and it seems most probable that a fight for the abolition of the department will be made at the session of the state legislature.

State Auditor Dunn, through the Princeton Union, has advanced the suggestion that the offices of public examiner, state superintendent of instruction, labor commissioner, insurance commissioner, dairy commissioner and the board of railway commissioners be made one rather than that appointive. It is claimed by those who have had experience in getting friends appointed to the offices mentioned and to minor positions under them that the elective proposition would place the state executive at a disadvantage. The patronage distributed through these offices undoubtedly gives the governor a strong political pull and on various occasions in the past has been the means of securing a second term for the one who has the distribution.

A new candidate for secretary of the senate has been announced in the person of John G. Cornwell, of Stepton, Marshall county. Mr. Cornwell is a staunch Republican and has the confidence in a political way of Senator Nelson, Gov. Clough and Congressmen Eddy, and also holds the office of Seventh district. His ability and attainments, his friends claim, are such as to fit him for the position and he is entitled to a deal of consideration. Mr. Cornwell was born in Zanesville, O., in 1840, and was left an orphan at the age of ten years. He served in the Union army from April 23, 1861, to July 2, 1865, and came to Minnesota fourteen years ago.

Will Prosecute Him, Anyway. The case of John McCarthy, who is said to have escaped from the city workhouse, will be heard Monday. Detectives Werlick and Wells say they have some interesting facts about McCarthy which will fall him if the original complaint does not.

PALMER MEN DROPPED.

Flower of the Party Read Out by Nebraska Democrats. OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 12.—The aristocratic Democratic organization of Omaha, the Jacksonian club, tonight dropped from its rolls all Democrats who refused to support Bryan in the recent campaign. Those expelled are the flower of the Democracy of the state, including many prominent members throughout Nebraska. The list includes all prominent federal office holders in Nebraska. Omaha's postmaster, Euclid Martin, heads the list. Those expelled were sent a letter in which the following was mentioned as the cause of expulsion: "That you did during the last campaign of 1896 oppose and refuse to support the regularly nominated candidates of the Democratic party for president and vice president, Wm. J. Bryan and Arthur Sewall, contrary to article VII, of the by-laws of the club."

A number of scathing letters were addressed to the club by the expelled members.

STRIKERS WEARY.

Proposition to Employers by the Hamburg Dock Men. HAMBURG, Dec. 12.—At meetings held today, the striking dockers adopted resolutions in favor of coming to some arrangements with the employers. A conference between the strikers and their employers will decide upon the composition of a board of conciliation.

PACIFIC LINE ABANDONED.

California Fight of the Steamship Schemer. LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 12.—E. C. Potter has returned to Chicago, and with him in all probability goes the hope of having a line of steamers from San Diego to Japan. Mr. Potter came here with the idea of raising \$500,000 in stock subscriptions to the company, as he had been assured by Eastern capitalists that, if the people here had enough confidence in the scheme to subscribe the amount named, they would furnish the balance. The fact is that at a meeting recently held at the chamber of commerce, the proposition was found to be impossible of accomplishment and was abandoned. This is learned from one of the gentlemen who was at the gathering. Mr. Potter has not definitely given up hope of carrying out the enterprise, but on account of apathy of those most interested in the success of the affair, it is not considered likely that he will meet with success.

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- 1 Kimball Piano—Walnut Case, Used year \$150
- 2 Fischer Pianos—Walnut and Mahogany, each \$300 1895 styles—regular price \$400.
- 1 Fischer Piano—Upright Grand, Walnut Case, 1895 style \$330 (Regular price \$450.)
- 1 Decker Bros. Piano—Oak, latest Design \$425 (Reduced from \$600.)
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PIANOS

he did not know how they stood. The senator is engaged in drawing up a bill supplemental to the amendment voted on by the people at the last election, providing for a prison pardoning board. The bill, however, is in a rough state and the text of it not ready for publication.

He has also been sent a draft of a bill which had been drawn by the committee on commercial law at a conference of commissioners on uniform law, held at Saratoga, in August, last. The bill which he would introduce related to negotiable instruments, and was similar to the British bills of exchange acts passed in 1882, and which is now in force in every English speaking country.



D. F. McGRATH.

Representative Henry Johns believes that unless the Sheehan law, which

try in the world, except the United States. The letter accompanying the draft of the bill stated that it was necessary that the bill should be passed, if at all, without change, in order that the uniformity in the law might be attained.

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