HOT SPRINGS STAR

WILL E. STANLEY, PUBLISHER.

HOT SPRINGS, - - DAK.

THE NORTHWEST.

NEBRASKA.

The Burlington company are building stock yards at Schuyler.

The Omaha and Yankton railway project is again being agitated.

Three firemen of Lincoln had their ears frozen Saturday night.

Nebraska City will soon have a German Democratic newspaper.

The State Journal will hereafter issue a Monday morning paper.

A florist recently invested $15,000 in a garden and flowers at Omaha.

Two men are reported to have been frozen to death near Grant Sunday.

Holt county voted at the recent election to adopt township organization.

The hog cholera is raging to an alarming extent in the vicinity of Blair.

Nebraska City claims a gain of 3,000 in her population during the past year.

Ponca claims to be the neatest and best regulated city in northern Nebraska.

Omaha officials expect to rigidly enforce the law prohibiting coasting on sidewalks.

Burglars entered the store of Goodrich & Noreen at Fremont, Monday night, and took $1,000 worth of goods.

Mrs. M. A. Connell was elected superintendent of public instruction in Kearney county by a majority of 1,213.

Hamlin Burnes, an old man of Omaha, was run over by a wagon, resulting in the fracture of three ribs and internal injuries. The driver of the wagon has been arrested for careless driving.

The elevator of Clark, Heaton & Co., at Clark's Station, was destroyed by fire Tuesday morning. Two horses in an adjoining barn were also burned. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Arrangements are now being perfected at West Lincoln for the establishment of a new manufactory in which will be employed 100 men. The product of the factory has not yet been made known.

The case of Dick Klocke, charged with assaulting Bobannon in his escape from the Nebraska City jail which has been before the district court, was concluded Friday by the jury finding Klocke not guilty.

There are twenty Chinese laundries in Omaha showing a total investment of less than $1,000, while there are only eighteen laundries conducted by white men, and they show a total investment of about $250,000.

A jury in the district court at Fremont Friday, brought in a verdict of $300 damages against the city for Martin Brenner, who broke his arm by slipping and falling on an inclined sidewalk some months ago. He sued for $2,000.

DAKOTA.

Elkton is to have a tow mill.

Measles is prevalent in Deadwood.

The Fargo Argus is now eight years old.

Armour papers are advising incorporation.

Lincoln county has only $11,080 in its treasury.

A Y. M. C. A. has been organized at Armour.

A young men's club is being organized at Deadwood.

A stencil factory is soon to be located at Brookings.

The Blunt Advocate is preparing to remove to Aberdeen.

A new fire department has been organized at Lake City.

Four saloons were burned at St. Thomas in one day last week.

New scenery has been received for the city hall at Vermillion.

A new newspaper will be started at Northfield about January 1.

Union county reports a corn crop of 2,500,000 bushels for 1887.

A number of Columbia capitalists will soon open a bank at Hecla.

Chas. H. Bates, of Yankton, has been awarded the contract of locating and running the western boundary of the Big Sioux Indian reservation.

Stock certificates have been issued to the Yankton Toboggan and Winter Carnival company, an organization for the promotion of winter sports.

Morton county farmers say that there is more money in raising flax and sending it to Minneapolis than in raising wheat and shipping it to Duluth.

The Nash block on Dakota avenue, in Huron has been purchased by Hamilton Kerr and O. W. Blair. It is one of the best business blocks in that city.

Doc. Noid was arrested at Canton Friday for selling liquor without a license. He waived an examination and was bound over until the grand jury meets again.

IOWA

District court at Council Bluffs convenes Monday.

Dubuque will increase the number of its gas lamps to 300.

Pomeroy expects to have a creamery by the 1st of next May.

The G. A. R. building at Humboldt will soon be completed.

Drake University expects to enroll 500 new students this year.

The narrow gauge depot at Yarmouth was burned last Saturday.

State Secretary O. G. Baldwin, of the Y. M. C. A., has resigned.

A freight train was wrecked on the Rock Island at Menlo Friday.

Four saloons were raided by the police at Cedar Rapids Saturday.

A large number of cattle have died of black leg near Spirit Lake recently.

J. W. Wilson fell from a rapidly moving train near Minot the other day and was rendered insane by the shock.

Mrs. Albert Martindale, of Colfax, met a terrible death Tuesday evening by having her clothes take fire and her body burned to a crisp before assistance could arrive.

In drilling the gas wells at Ottumwa a stratum of well preserved wood has been struck at a depth of 530 feet. It was first struck Saturday and up to Tuesday it had not been passed through.

Milford Foster, the supposed murderer of Emmet Reed, pleaded not guilty Tuesday at Bedford. It is generally expected that he will be the subject of the first legal hanging in Iowa for twenty years.

D. W. Neal, a barber of Cedar Rapids, was stabbed Monday morning by M. W. Lewis, a book agent, from whom he refused to receive and pay for a book for which he had previously subscribed. The wound was not fatal.

—A Michigan woodman, while chopping a hollow tree, was surprised to find blood on his ax, and was still more surprised the next minute when a bear put his head out of the hole. He killed the animal with his ax.

LOOKS BAD FOR THE OIL COMPANY

Hearing in the Standard Oil Case Nearly Completed, and the Prospect Looks Bad for the Company.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The hearing in the petition which charges discrimination on the part of several railroads on behalf of the Standard Oil company is nearly completed before the interstate commerce commission. It is, of course, not possible to forecast what the decision of the commission will be. But even those who have closely followed the case will be much mistaken if the decision does not show that the case has been made out. There have been some intimations in the course of the hearing that the answers of the defendant railroads have not been satisfactory. Once even a smile of the usually impassive chairman of the commission, Judge Cooley, has been interpreted to mean that the petitioners had scored a point. The Standard Oil company will receive justice at the hands of the commission, but the fact that its chief representative has admitted that it controls a trust of about $90,000,000 of capital will certainly not overawe the commission. The wisdom of the law which created the commission will, perhaps, be signally shown by the decision which may be expected from the evidence already taken. Very little more testimony is to be heard, then the arguments will begin, and the Standard Oil company will undoubtedly be represented by the most eminent legal talent in the country.

Horrible Holocaust.

At Wausau, Wisconsin, on Saturday morning Carl Honikel and his five children were burned to death at their residence. The fire broke out in the summer kitchen in the rear of the building, and Honikel was seen to throw his wife from the window and return after the children. He was found lying on his face with two of the children in his arms—both dead. Two of the others were taken from the building alive, but died before 1 o'clock. The fifth suffocated before it could be rescued. The building was a wooden structure, double-boarded, filled in with sawdust and very inflammable. The front was used for sleeping rooms and the back as a kitchen. The fire started in the kitchen, and the family were doubtless asphyxiated before they were reached by the flames. The fire department was very slow in responding to the alarm. Honikel was a hard-working, industrious German. When dragged through the window he had clasped in either arm the inanimate bodies of two babies. The casualty is one of the most dreadful that has happened in the vicinity, and what makes it seem worse is that the building was fired by an incendiary. Mrs. Honikel is still alive, but her injuries are of a serious nature. Since recovering consciousness and on learning the fate of her husband and children she raved like a maniac, and it is feared that if she lives she will be hopelessly insane.

Western Union Reduces Rates.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—The Western Union Telegraph company announces the following reductions in telegraph rates, to take effect December 1, next.

1. The maximum rate east of and including Montana, Utah and New Mexico and Texas, will be reduced from $1 to 75 cents.

2. Within the section east of the Mississippi river and north of Tennessee and North Carolina, the maximum rate will be reduced from 75 cents to 50 cents.

3. Within the section south of and including Virginia and Tennessee and east of the Mississippi river, the maximum rate will be reduced from 60 cents to 50 cents.

This revision embraces all places east of Montana and Utah where the Western Union company has offices, and gives a reduced rate for every one of them. There has been no increase in the Western Union rates, except in a few cases of its 10 and 15 cent rates. The advances of these very low and non-paying rates have been made on the Mutual Union and Baltimore and Ohio systems in connection with like advances by the Postal and United lines. The above reduction of rates by the Western Union company is more general and at the same time more comprehensive in character than any ever made by the company. The highest rate on the company's lines between extreme points, some of them from 4,000 to 5,000 miles apart.

A HOWLING BLIZZARD.

Southern Minnesota Visited by One of the Severest Storms for This Season of the Year Ever Known--Wind and Snow Elsewhere.

FAIRMONT, Minn., Nov. 26.—A howling blizzard is sweeping over southern Minnesota. Trains are abandoned and cats are full of snow. The storm has been increasing in fury since 2 o'clock. Unless there is a change the road is liable to be blockaded for several days. It is the worst storm ever seen here at this time of year.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Nov. 26.—A blizzard commenced blowing from the northwest this afternoon, with rapidly falling mercury, and this evening has become quite a gale with fine snow filling the air. Reports from western and northwestern parts of the state show the blizzard to be very severe there.

SIOUX FALLS, Dak., Nov. 26—Snow began falling here yesterday afternoon and has continued during to day. The strong wind which sprung up during the night caused a genuine blizzard in this region, and it is still howling. Railroad trains, however, have not as yet been belated.

HURON, Dak., Nov 26—A high wind and heavy snow storm have prevailed since yesterday afternoon. Over six inches of snow has fallen, which is much drifted. Passenger trains have not been much delayed.

MITCHELL, Dak., Nov. 26—The promised cold wave got here this morning, with snow and a northwest wind. The mercury stood 6 deg. below at 7 p. m., and it is growing colder.

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis., Nov. 26—The snow is coming fast to night, and lumbermen are pleased to see it.

HASTINGS, Nov. 26.—The first blizzard of the season put in an appearance this evening with a strong wind from the northwest. The snow is drifting in places, and about four or five inches has fallen on the level.

ADRIAN, Nov. 26—It began snowing yesterday, and is a blizzard to-day. The thermometer is falling. The farmers are fully prepared, as there is a short supply of fuel.

FLANDREAU, Dak., Nov. 26—A howling blizzard has been the order of the day. It is rapidly growing colder.

SLEEPY EYE, Nov. 26—Snow commenced falling yesterday and has continued all day. A heavy wind is now blowing and the first blizzard is upon us.

—This college news comes from Washington territory; "While playing baseball at Huntsville last week Prof. R. O. Hawks, superintendent of schools of Columbia county, had the misfortune to break one of his legs by coming into collision with another player."

LIFE SAVING SERVICE.

Annual Report of Superintendent Kimball

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The annual report of General Superintendent Kimball of the life saving service shows: The establishment embraced at the close of the last fiscal year 218 stations, as follows: One hundred and sixty-six on the Atlantic; forty-four on the lakes; seven on the Pacific, and one at the falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Ky. The number of disasters to vessels reported within the field of station operations during the year was 332. On board these vessels were 6,327 persons, of whom 6,272 were saved and fifty-five lost. The value of the vessels involved in the disasters is $4,726,025, and that of their cargoes at $2,288,775, making the total value of property $7,075,700, of which $5,788,820 was saved, and $1,286,880 lost. The total number of vessels totally lost was seventy-two. Besides the foregoing there were, during the year, 135 casualties to smaller craft, such as sailboats, rowboats, etc., on which there were 274 persons, 271 of whom were saved.

An unusual number of storms and the prevalence of fogs made the operations of the service more than commonly difficult and dangerous, but nevertheless the station crews succeeded in saving a much greater number of lives and a larger amount of property than ever before, in some instances performing feats of unparalleled enterprise and daring. A summary of statistics of the service from the introduction of the present system in 1871 to the close of the fiscal year shows: Total number of disasters, 3,852; total value of vessels and cargoes involved, $65,549,779; saved, $47,330,992; lost, $17,218,787. Total number of persons involved, 35,427; saved, 34,883; lost 544.

The loss of life, as stated above, includes 183 persons lost at the wrecks of the steamers Huron and Metropolis, and also fourteen other persons, really not chargeable to the service, leaving the total number of lives lost during the sixteen years of the existence of the system only 347 out of over 35,000 involved.

STATE OF TRADE.

The situation, as measured by the clearing house returns of the principal commercial centers of the country, shows expansion of general trade the past week of over 14 per cent. as compared with the same period of last year, but no distinctive feature has been developed, all lines of business seeming to have participated in the improvement.

The demand for lumber, hardware and building materials from the west and southwest has been especially active.

The money market has become firm with an increased tendency to stiffness, yet the financial situation is conspicuously free from unhealthy influences.

There is great complaint that the railroad companies cannot meet the increased demand for transportation. New roads have been built and old lines extended without providing increased rolling stock.

The iron market has developed a stronger tone and sales of several round lots are reported.

Packing house products are in active demand, and the principal packers of the west are running a full complement of hands, with the indications all pointing to the continuation of this condition of the trade for some time to come, the export demand seeming to increase every week. Railroad earnings continue large.

Mercantile collections continue fair.

The corn crop is put by the official figures about 275,000,000 bushels below average, the cotton crop 3,000,000 bales below, the wheat crop about 400,000,000 bushels below, the potato, hay and cotton crops at still greater reductions. The shortage in corn and hay implies, of course, corresponding reductions in the number of live stock of all kinds, to which they furnish support, and reduce our foreign exchange.

In miscellaneous merchandise trade has kept a cheerful and steady temper. In nearly all leading lines artisan production has appeared to have been animated by confidence both in values and movement, producing largely and keeping prices firm and even. Confidence has not gone to the excesses which tend to speculative extravagance, but has been seemingly tempered with a fair degree of conservatism. There has been no pushing of prices upward, except the evidently legitimate advance in cotton goods and the policy, or the necessity rather, has been recognized to limit the price work to maintaining, if possible, the present level which, indeed, in most lines, is at least high enough, in view of the changed position of the self-sustaining resources of the agricultural population, and the unusually keen competition abroad.

THE MARKETS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1

LIVE STOCK			
Shipping steers	2 70	@	5 00
Good to choice	2 75	@	3 00
Medium to good cows	1 25	@	2 75
Stockers	1 75	@	3 35
HOGS—Rough packing	4 65	@	5 10
Packing and shipping	4 85	@	5 30
Light	4 45	@	4 80
Skips	3 00	@	4 30
SHEEP—			
Natives	2 75	@	4 40
Westerns	3 00	@	3 65
Texans	2 30	@	3 30
Lambs	4 40	@	5 25
PROVISIONS.			
BUTTER—Creamery	22	@	28
Good to choice dairy	16½	@	21½
EGGS—Fresh	29	@	31
FLOUR—Winter	3 70	@	4 0
Spring	3 50	@	4 5
Patents	4 30	@	4 50
GRAIN—Wheat, No. 2	75½	@	75½
Corn, No. 2	46½	@	46¾
Oats, No. 2	29½	@	29¾
Rye, No. 2		@	55
Barley, No. 2	73	@	79
FLAX—Good	1 21	@	1 21½
PORK—Mess	14 12½	@	14 55
LARD—Steam	7 07½	@	7 10

ST. PAUL, Dec 1

CATTLE—			
Choice steers	3 50	@	3 80
Butchers' good steers	2 15	@	2 35
HOGS—			
Butchers' stock	4 50	@	4 55
SHEEP—			
Choice	3 10	@	3 15
FLOUR—			
Patents	4 25	@	4 35
Best low grades	3 35	@	3 0
GRAIN—			
Wheat, No. 2			66
Corn, No. 2		@	41
Oats, No. 2	24	@	24½
Rye, No. 2		@	45
Barley, No. 2		@	58
FLAX—			
Good		@	1 08

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 1.

CATTLE—			
Export steers	4 15	@	5 00
Good to choice corn fed	4 50	@	4 85
Common to medium	3 20	@	3 65
Stockers and feeders	2 00	@	2 60
Cows	1 25	@	2 00
HOGS—			
Good to choice	4 20	@	4 90
Common to medium	3 00	@	10
SHEEP—			
Natives	3 00	@	3 60
Westerns	3 25	@	3 75
Lambs	3 75	@	4 50

STATE OF TRADE.

The general tone of business during the past week has been cheerful.

The tendency of most of the money markets of the country has been towards firmer rates on account of an increased borrowing demand. But as an offset to the existing approximation to stringency in the east and which would indicate the belief on the part of the financiers that it is only a temporary hardening of discount rates is the fact that within the past week the state of Missouri received bids averaging above par for her 3¼ per cent. 5-20 refunding bonds aggregating $3,700,000. There have been fewer applications for renewal of maturities and offerings of local commercial paper for discount have for the most part been for comparatively small amounts, while mercantile collections have been on a liberal scale. The requirements of the cotton and live stock regions continue large, however, which tends to keep interest rates to all borrowers up to the range of 4 to 6 per cent.

Railroad earnings continue large, in fact larger than ever before, but the unhealthy aspect of the situation is, that the percentage of gross revenue that is being absorbed by operating expenses was never higher. This is due almost directly to traffic rate reductions, which have been and are still being made without any reason other than that there are more roads than business, and in the strife the question of the cost of service has been lost sight of. And it may be said that the situation will grow still more desperate, for the new Illinois tariff schedule makes a reduction of 20 to 30 per cent. in all classes, and Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri will, the roads expect, promptly conform to the Illinois basis, which is practically that which was adopted in April last by the railways for interstate traffic movements. Nevertheless, present earnings would return a fair net yield on the actual value of the railway properties, but they are not sufficient under existing capitalizations, which are for the most part on the basis of a good deal of worthless water and some value, instead of upon the basis of earning power and opportunity, as they should be.

Orders for anthracite coal for next month have been placed at 25 to 50 cents below current rates.

Cotton goods are under a very noticeable activity, and are advancing throughout the whole list of heavy goods and such articles as warps, cordage, yarns, etc. Wool is having a better action and firmer tone this month than it has displayed since summer, but woolen goods are quiet and featureless. Coffee options have declined 25@90 points, the greater losses being in the more distant positions implying a discounting of favorable prospects for the next yield. Sugars have gone off a trifle.

STANDARD OIL.

President Rockefeller Examined by the Inter-State Commission and Gives Some Idea of the Magnitude of the Oil Trust.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—J. D. Rockefeller, chairman of the Standard Oil trust, was examined before the inter-state commerce commission to-day in connection with the Standard Oil cases. Counsel for complainants asked witness to produce a paper which he had in hand giving a list of the stocks of the various companies held in trust. Immediately counsel for the Standard Oil trust and for several of the defendant railroads interposed objections, the former on the ground that the Standard Oil trust was not a party to this case and that the production of the paper would be an unnecessary and irrelevant disclosure of the witness' private affairs. The commission decided that the paper should be produced. Counsel for complainant proceeded to question witness within the rulings of the commission. Witness said:

The stock of the Standard Oil company, of Ohio, the Standard Oil company, of Kentucky, the Camden Consolidated Oil, of Parkersburg, W. Va., the Waters-Pierce Oil company, of St. Louis, and the Consolidated Tank Line company, of Cincinnati, was held by the Standard trust. The stock of these companies was received from the owners and the certificates of the trust issued in exchange. The profits of the several companies were not divided among the stockholders, but were paid into the trust and then divided among the holders of the trust certificates. The aggregate of outstanding certificates was about $90,000,000. Sixty-five per cent. of the oil refining business of the country was done by this company. The trust certificates were held in all parts of the country. The trust had nothing whatever to do with the making of rates. All that was done by the subordinate companies.

Geo. Rice, the complainant, was examined. Beyond the statement that his profits were about fourteen cents a barrel on oil, delivered at his works in Ohio, and the further statement in contradiction to that of most of the railroad men that the consignor and consignee usually load and unload barreled oil at their own expense his testimony covered familiar grounds. Other witnesses were examined, but no new points were elicited.

Pensions.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—It was thought that the record made by the bureau of pensions during the fiscal year 1887 could not possibly be excelled, but from present indications the year's work for the fiscal year 1888 will exceed that of 1887.

During the last fiscal year there were issued 112,340 certificates, of which 55,194 were original.

On the first day of July 1886, there were upon the rolls 365,788 pensioners of all classes, and the net increase during the first four months of that year was 3,768, so that there were upon the rolls November 1, 1886, 369,551.

July 1, 1887, there were upon the rolls 406,067 pensioners of all classes, and the net increase during the first four months of the present fiscal year has been 10,641, making the rolls stand November 1, 1887, 416,648, so that the net increase to the rolls for the present fiscal year is 6,873 in excess of the net increase for a corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

Sixteen Girls Cremated.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—A school in the village of Werchobistritzkiol, Russia, was destroyed by fire a few nights ago. A large number of girls were sleeping on the upper floors when the fire broke out. Twenty-four of them escaped by jumping from the windows, but sixteen others who were afraid to jump were burned to death. A number of boys who were sleeping on the ground floor escaped.

—Wilbur T. Chamberlain of Norwich, Conn., went to London several months ago bearing certain dynamite projectiles of his own invention, desiring to sell them to the British government. He has been very successful in his negotiations with the English war office. Mr. Chamberlain has been granted eight provisional patents on explosives and projectiles, the inventions to be kept "a government secret."

LAMAR ON LAND GRANTS.

Synopsis of the Forthcoming Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

This land grant legislation was certainly not in harmony with the theory of distribution of the public domain among the people, and gave up to capitalists as a basis for traffic and speculation and gigantic financial schemes what was by the original policy of the government designed to be homes for an industrious and thrifty people, abodes of domestic happiness and virtue and patriotism. Notwithstanding these indemnity withdrawals were made exclusively for the interests of certain companies, few of these, if any of them, constructed their roads within the time prescribed in the granting act as an express condition on which the grant was made. Maps of "probable," "general," "designated," and "definite" routes of said roads were filed with rapidity in the department, and withdrawals thereunder asked and almost invariably granted, until the public land, states and territories, were gridironed over with railroads' granted and indemnity limits; and in many instances the limits of one road overlapping and conflicting with other roads in a most bewildering manner, so that the settler seeking a home could scarcely find a desirable location that was not claimed by some one, or perhaps two or three, of the many roads to which grants of land had been made by congress.

Nor was this all. Though a desired tract might not be, apparently, covered by railroad location, the settler would hardly select it before agents of the corporations would set up a claim to it, or to the right to occupy and denude it under the right-of-way and construction privileges conferred by the granting act. Thus the settler, ignorant of his legal rights, and with no one to advise him with respect to either the law or facts, would, for the sake of peace and home, readily consent to purchase from the company. In this way these corporations, in addition to the lands granted to them, have claimed, sold and received the price of a great deal of other lands to which they had neither legal nor moral right, nor a shadow of either. The confusion, hardship and impositions practiced upon the settlers were greatly increased by bold schemes of the corporate agents where withdrawals were made of lands to which the legal title of the companies had not attached, and which afterward remained in the same condition for years, through the failure of congress to make the necessary appropriations for surveys.

When, however, through partial surveys or adjustments of grants the lands thus sold by the company were found to be outside of the grants, and determined by the department to be public lands, the purchaser from the company found himself in the unfortunate predicament of having lost both his land and his money. Generally without means to enter into costly litigation with the powerful corporation, the deprivation of his home, the expenditure and waste of his years, energy and strength in redeeming that home from its wild condition, rendered his mere technical right of action against the company but little more than mockery.

It mattered not what that might be his equities, acquired by years of toil upon what he believed to be a part of the national domain. It was declared by the highest judicial tribunal, as expounded by the highest law officers of the executive, that withdrawal once made by competent authority was legal and effective to exclude all from intrusion within its limits.

One such case, where hardship and injustice were about to be inflicted under the law, came under your observation. [Secretary here cites the noted Guilford Miller case]. After years of waiting, congress had failed to empower the department to make the necessary surveys, whereby some of the grants might be adjusted, and no immediate prospect of such surveys was in sight. But a law was passed March 3, 1887, whereby the secretary of the interior was "directed to immediately adjust each of the railroad land grants made by congress to aid in the construction of railroads."

I entered upon a most careful consideration of the whole subject of the history and law relating to land grants, and concluded that if the department was clothed with authority to make indemnity withdrawals as had been done in so many instances, the exercise of that authority was a matter entirely within sound discretion and not a matter of legal obligation in any respect; that the same sound discretion, which in the interest of the companies justified said withdrawals, now demanded peremptorily, in the public interest, a speedy revocation of the same; and that the most effective way of expediting the adjustment of the land grants, and doing exact justice to the companies, guarding and promoting the interests of settlers also, was to permit the public to enter into competition with the companies in the selection of the lands heretofore withdrawn for indemnity purposes.

The secretary refers to his rule of May 23 upon different companies to show cause why the withdrawals should not be revoked. He adds:

Some of the companies failed to show cause; others filed answers assenting to a revocation, as they had received satisfaction of their grant, either in full or as far as possible; others assenting on condition that the lands covered by selections already made should be excepted from the order of revocation, and other companies objected to the order of revocation as illegal and in violation of their chartered rights. Briefs were filed and oral arguments accorded to the counsel of such companies as desired to be heard, all of which were fully and carefully considered, as was due to the importance of the questions and the magnitude of the interests involved, and on August 18, 1887, my views were fully expressed in a decision rendered in the case of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad company, which, by answer and argument, raised nearly all the objections that were presented in part only by a number of other companies.

lands within the indemnity limits and reserving the same from settlement were revoked, and the lands restored to the public domain and to settlement, (1) in the cases two of companies which had not answered; of (2) in those cases which answered and assented; (3) in the cases of companies which set up defenses coming within the rulings in the foregoing opinion.

In the congressional grants to the Hastings and Dakota, St. Paul and Northern Pacific, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba, St. Paul and Sioux City, Sioux City and St. Paul, and Winona and St. Peter, it is provided that upon filing maps designating the routes of said roads and branches, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the interior to withdraw from the market the lands embraced within the provisions of the act making the grant. In consequence of this provision these roads were omitted from the orders of restoration.

It will be seen from the order passed in the Atlantic and Pacific case, and which applied to the other companies, mutatis mutandis, that whilst it was determined that the lands in question should not longer be withheld from appropriation under the settlement laws, every precaution possible was taken to to protect the legal rights of the corporations.

Following this action, instructions were subsequently issued to the commissioner of the general land office to detail all the available force in his office to the work of adjusting the road grants and proceeding as rapidly as possible with the same.

The amount of land restored to the public domain through the orders revoking the indemnity withdrawals is stated by the commissioner of the general land office to be 21,823,630 acres.

I beg to refer to what has been said in another part of this report in relation to the imperative necessity of appropriations for surveys, without which a complete adjustment of these railroad grants is not practical at an early day.

A Half-Witted Boy's Fearful Deed.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Nov. 23.—Information reached here last night of a fearful tragedy near Perida, on the Louisville and Nashville railway. A half-witted boy, named Charley Baker, had witnessed the killing of the family meat. Having been gone from the house some time one morning with his brother and sister, aged respectively four and six, he came back alone, his clothes covered with blood, and told his mother he had killed them, showing a sharp butcher-knife with which he said he had done the work. Following him to a spot in the woods near the slaughter-pen, the mother, sure enough, found her younger son and daughter stretched on the ground in a pool of blood, both with their throats cut. The girl was dead and the boy barely alive. While the family were attending them, Charley disappeared again, and search being made for him shortly afterward, he was found a few steps from the same spot dead, with his jugular vein severed, evidently by his own hand. The wounded boy is mending slowly.

Dilke the Alarmist.

LONDON, Nov. 30—Sir Charles Dilke is again alarming the English people. In an article which he has written for the Fortnightly Review he takes an alarming view of the Russian designs on India, and says he believes that a Russian attack on India is certain. In that event he places little faith in the Indian army, and declares that the English army in India would be in a bad way.

ISRAEL IN THE DESERT.

They came from Egypt, where oppression,
Imposed upon them for expression,
Had made their labors grievously hard.
Moses led them through the angry sea,
Where lie the soldiers from whom they did flee,
Those who the prophet's words did disregard.

They wandered through the Desert many years;
Their grievous wanderings caused them many tears,
And many times they fierce, rebellious grew.
Moses grew angry, and he often swore
That he would leader be to them no more;
As was beloved of "God," and staunch and true.

For forty years they wandered o'er the plain;
In wars and wranglings many men were slain;
Few that left Egypt ever Canaan saw.
During their troubles in that desert land,
They got the decalogue from "God's" own hand,
The great foundation of all written law.

While Moses on the mountain held converse
With the Great Author of the Universe,
The wicked waiters made a calf of gold.
They took the women's gold and silver rings,
And many other precious golden things,
They ran them all into a beastly mold.

When Moses from his conference came down
His face shone glorious, like a heavenly crown;
He saw the calf, and all the laws he broke:
With grief and anger he was so oppressed,
Fierce rage and shame filled his manly breast
He wished they were all back 'neath Egypt's yoke.

He said: "O, Israel! why will you defame,
And bring disgrace upon God's holy name?
God's love, God's care for you daily increases;
Bring here the monstrous thing that you have made."
The calf was at the feet of Moses laid,
He smashed it into many thousand pieces.

'Twas but one episode the type of many,
This tells the story just as well as any,
'Twas oft repeated as they daily wandered;
They often murmured at their weary lot,
They claimed that they had been by God forgot,
And even Moses in their wrath they slandered.

—By Perrinx.

President Cleveland's Letter of Sympathy to Mrs. Ellett

Judge Ellett, of Memphis, Tennessee, it will be remembered, suddenly died on the platform just after finishing his address of welcome to President Cleveland upon the latter's visit to Memphis. As soon as the president reached Washington he wrote the following letter of sympathy to Mrs. Ellett:

MY DEAR MRS. ELLETT:—I cannot resist the impulse to express my deep and sincere sympathy with you in the terrible affliction you have sustained in the sudden death of your loved and honored husband.

I know I can write nothing which will comfort you in this trying hour, since consolation at such a time can only come from the heavenly source which permitted the grievous blow.

My immediate relation to your deceased husband at the moment of his fatal stroke seems to connect me so nearly with his death that the sad scene is indelibly fixed upon my mind.

The death of so good and useful a man is an affliction to the entire community in which he dwelt, and if there is any solace in the knowledge that many share your grief, or if there is consolation in the fact that the last words of the lamented dead, spoken in the presence of his neighbors and fellow-citizens, were full of noble patriotism and love for all his countrymen, this solace and this consolation you have in full measure. In this hour of your bereavement may God give you His support and the peace of mind which passeth all understanding. Mrs. Cleveland desires me to convey to you her heartfelt sympathy and condolence.

Yours sincerely,
GROVER CLEVELAND.

—A bull that was being led along a Louisville street became unmanageable and dashed into a drug store. The animal plunged wildly about and finally rushed out through a back door into a saloon. After a hard fight in which the saloon keeper was knocked down the bull was driven out into the street.

SPEAKER CARLISLE.

He Talks About the Tariff and the Contest For His Seat.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Speaker Carlisle has returned to this city from New York. Last evening he consented to receive a correspondent, and spoke freely on general topics. With regard to prospective legislation on the tariff, he said:

"I have every reason to believe that an equitable reduction on imports will be effected during the coming session. I expect we shall develop the same opposition with which we have always had to contend. The Republicans will undoubtedly be found in the position which they have always had. The protectionists will wage as bitter a warfare as ever, but the reform must come. As to the reports I have seen in the papers that a tariff bill is now in course of preparation, I will say that as yet absolutely nothing has been done to formulate a measure."

"You have seen the stories with regard to your intentions toward Mr. Randall?"

"Yes, I have seen them. I can say nothing whatever on that subject. As I have already indicated, I am not the speaker of the next house as yet. When I have been elected it will be time enough to talk about these things. I notice that several papers have commenced on the fact that two years ago I did not announce my committees until the holiday recess."

"It should be remembered that the house at the beginning of that session engaged in revising the rules, which were not finally adopted until the day before recess. It would have been extremely unwise for me to have appointed the committees until their exact jurisdiction had been defined. There will doubtless be some delay in making the selections for the coming congress. I see that of the total number of standing committees more than half—thirty-two—are without chairmen, the incumbents having been defeated in the last congressional election. Of necessity much time must be consumed in filling the positions and in making the acquaintance of the large number of new members and in learning their peculiar tastes and abilities. It is doubtful whether the committees can be announced before the holidays."

"Do you anticipate any serious annoyance from the contest of Mr. Tuobey?"

"I do not give the matter a thought."

"Shall you call some one to the chair when the time arrives for the appointment of the committee on elections?"

"No, for the reason that my action would be open to the same criticism that could be made should I appoint the committee myself. They would be said to be acting under my instructions. I may ask the house to elect the committee by ballot. I have not finally determined this point as yet. This is all, of course, upon the assumption that I am chosen speaker."

A LONG PIPE LINE.

The Standard Oil Company Has a Big Scheme on Hand.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 1.—A gigantic scheme of the Standard Oil company, involving millions of dollars, has just been unearthed here. It is nothing more or less than a grand trunk pipe line from Chicago to New York by way of the Ohio and Pennsylvania oil fields. The pipe line, when completed, will be nearly 1,000 miles long and will cost at least $5,000,000. It will connect the Ohio and Pennsylvania fields, and oil can be piped eastward or westward, as desired. The Standard company has already commenced to lease the right-of-way through Ohio and Indiana. Thousands of the best oil lands have been secured, and the intention is to develop and test all the country between Chicago and Lima, Ohio. The step was made necessary by the high railroad rates consequent upon the carrying into effect of the interstate commerce law, and the intention of the Standard company is to utilize the oil piped to Chicago for fuel as well as for illuminating purposes.

A LIVELY FIGHT PROMISED.

Opposition to the Seating of Turpie, of Indiana.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—Telegrams were yesterday sent by Mr. Ingalls, president pro tem of the senate, to all republican senators and senators-elect now out of the city, urging them to be here by Monday morning, when a caucus is to be held on the contested election of David Turpie, of Indiana. Senator Ingalls says Turpie will not take his seat. He will be objected to when he presents himself to take the oath, unless some unforeseen turn changes the programme. Mr. Ingalls anticipates a very busy scene in the senate at the time the objection is made. Senator Riddleberger is relied upon to vote with the republicans to send Turpie's case to the committee on privileges and elections.

Maturity of Ensilage Corn.

John Gould says in the Press that the maturing of ensilage corn has been carried to its farthest point in Ohio this fall, and that not until September 23 was silo pitting fairly under way. This gave the fodder a chance to mature more fully than ever before. The expectation from this venture is that the silage will prove superior to any previously pitted. He noticed that many of the ears of corn had even passed the cooking stage and had become hard and even dented, and yet the stalk maintained its dark and lusty green. The value of such silage cannot be doubted, whatever may have been charged against the half grown, grainless fodder cut in August, which was once considered proper practice. The slower filling gives the silage a chance to settle, in which it is aided both by its own weight and the heating, the latter appearing very helpful in the close and solid massing of the fodder to the exclusion of air. This air exclusion seems to be the important point in sweet silage making, and numerous are the ways now devised to accomplish this, and avoid the greater cost of stone and cement silos. This season the silo men are all shortening up the cut of their machines to one-third and one-half inch lengths, and by this finer cut the silage settles faster and takes on heat more readily. The more mature the fodder the slower it develops heat, and this tardiness is nearly overcome by finer slicing.

—The Association of Dancing Teachers on the Pacific coast have in contemplation a complete revision of the present style of dancing.

—A horse at Lynn, Mass., is alleged to have got out of a box stall in which he had been put and to have gone to the blacksmith shop where his owner found him waiting his turn for a new shoe.