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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY PROPRIETORS. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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Sworn to before me and subscribed to in my presence this 5th day of January, A. D. 1889, N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

The deluge has arrived—the deluge of legislative bills.

JUDGE HARRIETT'S decision in the New York supreme court against the sugar trust is a sweet morsel to roll under the tongue of the consumer.

If DICK BERLIN doesn't lose his head over the nauseating slobber that is being poured at his feet by tickle-pit reporters and journalists it will be a wonder.

THERE is a story about Horatio the Roman holding the bridge against the invaders. But he cuts no figure at all beside Phillipe Weaver of Iowa holding the house at bay.

THE British investor, between buying worthless American railroad stock and electric sugar securities, will soon feel himself reduced to the level of the excluded pauper laborer.

It was in accord with the eternal fitness of things that Mr. Seod of Seward county should be put on the committee of agriculture and should be made chairman of the committee on grazing.

THE Honorable Roubalabout Morrissey has been assigned temporarily to the committee on banking and currency, revenue and taxation and manufactures and commerce. Just think of this eminent financier revising our banking system and our taxation laws!

GOVERNOR-ELECT FRANCIS, of Missouri, is credited with making over a million dollars in the recent wheat speculation. That may explain why the retiring Governor Morehouse referred to the necessity of stringent legislative action to make dealing in options a criminal offense.

NEW MEXICO has been heard from. The land of sheep, Spaniards, Apaches and buried cities does not propose to sit idly by and see Dakota walk into the union without a protest. Its delegate to congress, Antonio Joseph, has made an appeal for the admission of the territory, but congress will take plenty of time to digest the claims of New Mexico for statehood.

FULLY two-thirds of the members of the house committee on public lands and buildings represent localities that have been favored with public buildings and charitable institutions by the state. This makes the committee the most aggressive combine that has ever been welded together by the seductive power of appropriations. It is safe to predict that that committee will, if it has its way, drain the surplus out of the state treasury and pile up the agency of liberal appropriations till the state groans and staggers under the oppressive burden.

It may be of general interest to the business community to learn that statistics place the number of failures for the year just ended at ten thousand out of a total of one million and forty-six thousand business firms. In other words, there was one failure for every ninety-eight men in business. This ratio will seem unusually high, taking into consideration that the year 1888 was considered a fairly prosperous one. The number of failures was higher than for 1887, when it was in the proportion of one to every one hundred and thirty.

The appalling disaster which overtook the populous cities of Pittsburgh, Reading, and other towns of Pennsylvania, will send a thrill of horror through the whole country. The destructive cyclone, resulting in the loss of so many lives and property, has not been paralleled for many years. It was known in the signal service department that an area of low barometric depression extended from Nebraska to the Atlantic ocean and from Memphis to Canada. It was predicted that severe storms would sweep across the country and cautionary signals were displayed, but no such violent manifestation of the fury of the elements was anticipated. There is a wide field for investigation in the study of the cyclone. With all our scientific investigations, our weather prophets cannot foretell when to prepare for these terrible visitations, and it would appear that Pennsylvania or any other section of the country is just as liable to be swept by the fury of the cyclone as Dakota or Louisiana.

A NEEDED REFORM.

The sooner a well digested bill regulating private banks in Nebraska can be prepared and introduced in the legislature the better it will be for all concerned. The public have a right to demand it for their own protection as depositors, and bankers ought to join in requesting it for the preservation of their credit and that of the state.

Five years ago the Chemical National bank of New York and New Jersey banking institutions the high compliment of saying that in twenty years of extensive business relations with the banks of this state it had never lost a dollar.

But in five years Nebraska has doubled in population and three recent bank failures indicate that it has not doubled the safeguards thrown around its banks. In each and every one of the cases noted, gross if not criminal mismanagement was the cause of the failure. None of the insolencies would have been probable under a law which provided as rigid restrictions for state banks as those which apply to banks operating under the federal statute.

An investigation of the books of the state auditor at Lincoln, will show that there are a number of so called banks operating in Nebraska without a dollar of paid up capital. They are doing business solely and entirely on the money of depositors, whose funds they are loaning and on whom the entire losses resulting from bad loans or mismanagement must fall. Organized under a state banking law, which gives sanction to their operations in return for a mere pretense of state supervision, the only duty in return is an annual report of their business, which is filed away in the auditor's office and is of no practical value to anyone.

There is urgent need of a wisely stringent banking law whose chief feature shall be a state bank examiner, acting under the treasurer with all the powers of a national bank examiner. Such an officer's salary could readily be met by fees paid by the banks whose books are examined and whose cash is counted. In addition the treasurer should be empowered to call for quarterly statements, which, as in the case of those of the national banks, should be printed conspicuously in the home papers, so that every depositor could have an opportunity of knowing the condition of the institution with which he is dealing.

The credit of Nebraska banks has been so excellent throughout the country that our bankers cannot afford to omit any opportunity which presents itself to preserve that credit and their own reputations unimpaired.

GOVERNOR COOPER AND THE RAILROADS.

The new governor of Colorado, Mr. Cooper, took very positive ground in his inaugural address in favor of the enactment of a railroad law for the better protection of the people of that state against the exactions of the corporations. He called attention to the fact that the republican platform distinctly pledged the party in favor of fair but stringent legislation respecting the railroads, and that the pledge should be faithfully and fully redeemed. "We declare," said the governor, "that public, rebates, and all discriminations should be prohibited, and the prohibition rigidly enforced by heavy penalties. We also demand legislation that will prevent the charging of exorbitant rates. We also demand legislation prohibiting all officers—judicial, legislative or executive—from accepting, directly or indirectly, railway passes or free tickets." It will thus be seen that the demands of the people of Colorado are very nearly in line with those of Nebraska, and unfortunately the chances of having them complied with are about even. In Colorado the legislative committees have been largely made up in the interest of the railroads, it is presumed at the dictation of the railway attorney, Mr. E. O. Walcott, who will next week be elected to the United States senate. In Nebraska the chairman of the railroad committee is a notorious and unscrupulous railroader, who can be depended upon to spare no effort to shield the railroads. Under such conditions the people of neither Colorado nor Nebraska are warranted in indulging the hope of getting needed and just railway legislation.

AN ANTI-TRUST LAW.

The legislature of Nebraska ought to enact an explicit and comprehensive law prohibiting combinations within the state to regulate prices and limit or destroy competition. Whatever power congress may possess to deal with trusts it is very evident there will be no legislation on the subject by the present body. The brave promises made at the first session by leaders of both parties have been disregarded, and a score of anti-trust measures are hidden away in committee rooms, very likely to be swept away with the debris remaining when the present congress shall die. Whether from a doubt regarding the authority of congress, as some have professed, or by reason of the influence of the great combines, the representatives of the people in the national legislature plainly intend to ignore this question for the present, while freely admitting there is none affecting the interests of the people and the commercial welfare of the country of greater importance.

This situation enforces the necessity of state action. A general policy of anti-trust legislation by the states would destroy the growing evil, and the right of the states to enact such legislation has never been questioned. No defender or apologist of trusts has ever suggested a doubt that a state has the right, in granting corporate franchises, to make it a condition that such franchises shall not, under penalty of forfeiture, be alienated from the parties to whom granted and surrendered to the control of trustees or agents without responsibility to the state. It is also not doubted that a state may prohibit and punish pooling and combinations between persons or corporations doing business within its jurisdiction, when the purpose of such arrangement is the regulation and control

of prices and production. The judicial opinions respecting trusts and like combinations, so far as we have observed, recognize the right of a state to do these things, and we do not know that it has anywhere or by anybody, save the attorneys of the trusts, been denied or questioned. It is notably recognized in the decision just rendered by Judge Barrett, in the New York supreme court, sustaining the action of the attorney general of that state to forfeit the charter of a sugar refining company which had disposed of its stock to the trust and closed up its works.

The bill introduced in the state senate by Mr. Keeley appears to be a comprehensive measure, the provisions of which do not exceed the authority of the state to prescribe regulations for the conduct of business within its jurisdiction. The importance of the subject, however, requires that the bill shall be given the most careful consideration, and its timely introduction will permit this to be done. A pretty general state movement against trusts and all forms of combination inimical to the freedom of trade and dangerous to the public welfare seems assured, and Nebraska should show a proper concern in this very important matter. But what is done should be carefully matured, so that it will stand any test and thus become a permanent bulwark for the protection of the people against all forms of monopoly and extortion.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

What has become of the serious charges preferred against Building Inspector Whitlock in connection with the permit issued by him to the New York Life Insurance company to occupy 68x44 feet of Seventeenth street for an underground power house? It will be remembered that Whitlock deliberately falsified the facts connected with this extraordinary transaction, and purposely misinformed the mayor and members of the council about the permit, and had the audacity to disregard the order of the council to issue the permit while injunction proceedings were pending. The committee of the last council which was directed to investigate the charges of high handed subordination failed to report, and the papers have been laid over for action by their successors in the present council. As a matter of present respect the council should make every city officer understand that its orders should not be defied with impunity. Aside from this, however, Whitlock's course in this connection leaves no other inference than collusion or spite work. In either case he has shown himself unfit for the place he holds, even if he was a competent builder and brought to the discharge of his duties anything more than the experience gained with a jackplane in a carpenter shop.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

The present congress appointed a committee, of which Tillman of South Carolina is chairman, to investigate the controversies last year between the railroad corporations and their employees in Pennsylvania, and to recommend what legislation, if any, was required of congress. The committee has not yet reported, but promises soon to do so. It seems from expressions of the chairman, however, that its conclusions are not likely to be of great value. His view is that the inter-state commerce act has already destroyed state control of railroads and it appears likely the committee will find the anthracite coal operators, railroads and mine owners in the enjoyment of a monopoly difficult to reach. If such shall be the case the time and expense of the committee was worse than wasted, but it is remembered that the investigation was of the most perfunctory character, taking the character rather of a pleasure trip than a matter of serious business, while the delay in making the report will bear a construction not altogether favorable to the committee. Nevertheless the conclusion of Mr. Tillman and his colleagues will not finally dispose of the question whether this grasping and merciless monopoly cannot be subjected to the regulation of law.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

The message of ex-Governor McGill, of Minnesota, is reassuring to the advocates of high license. He states that while no official data has been gathered, information to be relied on shows a decrease of fully one-third in the number of saloons in the state and an increase of one-quarter in the revenue derived from licenses. The consumption of liquor has been lessened and the cause of temperance materially promoted. There is less intoxication than before the law was enacted, the saloon is no longer a dominant power in the politics of the state, public opinion for a thorough control of the liquor traffic has strengthened, and in many ways, directly and indirectly, good has resulted to the state and people from the high license law. In view of these gratifying results, the ex-governor, anticipating an effort to repeal the law, advises against the adoption of such a measure. The experience of Minnesota is in accord with that generally following the application of high license to the liquor traffic.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

GOVERNOR COOPER, of Colorado, is sound on the subject of corporations or others importing into the state forces of armed men to perform police duty in protecting their property. "It is an insidious danger," said the governor, "which cannot be too promptly checked," and he thought the employment of such men should be made a criminal offense. The experience of Colorado in this matter was not so serious as that of Nebraska, but it seems to have been sufficient to fully impress her people with the danger of permitting a repetition of the outrage. It is the duty of every state to protect its people against this menace to their rights and liberties, and Colorado and Nebraska should unite in setting the example.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

PAUL VANDEBUREM, it seems, was not led to pay homage to General Harrison out of pure loyalty to John M. Thurston. He told the president-elect that he wanted the place of superintendent of the United States mail service and was backed in his demand by the Grand

Army. Mr. Harrison, however, will in all probability recall the fact, that not many years ago this same Vandeburem was dismissed from the postal service by Postmaster-General Grosvenor for insubordination and neglect of duty. The superintendent of the mail service, it is safe to predict, will not bear the name of Vandeburem.

The production of petroleum in Pennsylvania is gradually diminishing, and threatens before long to fall below the demand. As the oil from the Ohio fields cannot be converted into kerosene of the proper quality, it looks as if the shortage in the Pennsylvania supply cannot be made good unless drawn from new sources. This will be the opportunity for the oil fields of the west. The petroleum industries in Wyoming and Colorado will be given an impetus which will make them the leading market of the country. The day can not be far distant when this change will be brought about.

The outlook for the cattle growers of Colorado and Wyoming for 1889 is exceedingly promising. The ranges during the year just passed have been remarkably free from disease, and but very little loss was sustained by reason of severe weather. Another sign that betokens a prosperous season is that the number of cattle has been reduced in accordance with the capacity of the ranges. This has been most beneficial and has corrected the abuses of former years. The result is that better prices have ruled the cattle market and have given the business a healthier tone.

THE peck packing interests of the western packing centers seem to be brightening up as the season advances. The great drain during the summer and fall which taxed the supply of the farmers still leaves a shortage. But it is more than probable that within the next thirty days South Omaha will gradually increase their packing to very nearly the corresponding operations of last year.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. Harrison, jr., seems to be spelling his name Rustie.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Are you ambitious? Select an acceptable name for one of the two Dakotas and go thundering down the ages.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Old Hickory's Anniversary. Saint Jackson's day passed off very quietly. The democrats were not in good celebrating humor.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Something Too Much of Congress. The present congress is doing everything in its power to make necessary an extra session of the next congress. This country is congested to death.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

It's the Home of the Hustler. The west, which is already intoxicated with the hopes of the next census, wants hustlers rather than moral heroes. If the hustlers are moral, so much the better, but at any rate they must be hustlers.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Applicable to Nebraska. The policy originally adopted by the United States in authorizing banks to be formed was to exercise a rigid supervision over them, and that policy has been faithfully adhered to. The policy of Illinois, on the contrary, has been to allow banks to do business on a charter to go on year after year, taking the people's money without having their solvency looked into. It is a matter of surprise that failures have been so few. It is not too much to say that the old policy of the state has prevented the normal growth in our midst of the savings bank system, and no doubt it has cost the state and its depositors a great deal of money, taking the period as a whole.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

A CHANCE TO LAUGH. Unto a little nigger, A-swimming in the Nile, Appeared quite unexpectedly, A skunk in a skunk's style. Who, with that chill politeness That makes the warm blood freeze, Without dressing, if you please"—LIFE.

New York Sun: "Do you think your sister thinks enough about me to marry me?" "I don't know," returned the girl, "but I am sure that you are solid with the old man. So, perhaps, before you pop the question you had better question the pop."

Philadelphia Record: Little Dot—Our minister prays ever so much louder than does Dot. Little Hob—I don't care if he does. Our minister jumps the highest when he preaches, so there now.

Wife (who had been detained at home): "Do tell me how the ladies were dressed, dear! I'm just dying to know. Husband: "Oh! all that saw were regular prize-winning costumes."

Texas Scissors: Three of a kind would have scuffed the ark during the flood, for it only held three.

Boston Beacon: What are the great astronomers? The stars; because they have studied the heavens for ages.

Merchant Traveler: It was doubtless a sheep-trader who first remarked (and in all innocence) that he wouldn't give a dan.

It is believed that the luckiest stone mentioned in the bible is the one that David used in his encounter with Goliath.

Answers to Correspondents. CORNOVA, Neb., Jan. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: For the benefit of your many readers, please state the republican majority, last election, in this state. C. H. BARBER.

HARRISON'S majority, 23,229; Thayer's majority, 15,230.

TRIST, Neb., Jan. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: Please settle a dispute among your many readers in this place, please publish the age of John L. Sullivan. READER.

Sullivan was born in Boston October 15, 1835, and is consequently thirty years of age.

To the Sporting Editor of The Bee: Please to state in The Bee what world's record, if any, John S. Prince holds at present. READER.

Prince holds an American record of 100 miles in an hour, 50 minutes and 43 seconds, made at Springfield, Mass., October 28, 1885.

Unconscious and Slowly Sinking. At noon yesterday Colonel A. H. Forbes was in an unconscious condition, and is reported to be slowly journeying toward the inevitable realm. The operation performed upon his skull has not brought about the results that were anticipated, and his death now is regarded merely as a question of time. The medical talent in the city is at

CURRENT TOPICS.

The dynamic cruiser Vesuvius has been tried again, and has again proved herself faster than the contract demanded, making even better time than on the first occasion. The wind was blowing at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour, and the sea was very heavy, and what was still more disadvantageous, the trial was made in shoal water, which makes the waves short and choppy, as well as high. But the builders, Cramp Bros. of Philadelphia, had such confidence in their building that they said, "Let her go, Gallagher," and she went the measured two miles in 5 minutes and 54 seconds. She made another attempt to beat this record, but the sea was too heavy, and one of the air-pump levers broke. There will be still another trial when next year has been put in, and it is seriously believed that Captain Kings will be obtained. Captain Zalinski, the perfecter, if not the inventor, of the pneumatic dynamite gun, was on board, and was highly gratified with the results. The Vesuvius armed with his gun is at present the most powerful vessel in the world, and yet she is a little thing, costing a mere \$1,000,000. When a fleet of such boats America will be not only invulnerable to the attacks of others, but will be irresistible in her attacks. Let European nations spend the money of the people in costly armaments if they will. The great Yankee nation fights with brains, and lets the people keep their gold and silver in their pockets. It is noteworthy that not one of our immensely expensive armor-plated, with hundred-ton guns has ever been used in warfare, and the Vesuvius has already made them obsolete. So much for spending money out of pure pique.

Omaha purified itself from the gambling dens that infested it some eighteen months ago, and those who were too timid to help in the movement that drove them out, have realized since that it pays to be moral, and to be courageous in defense of public morality. The good that was then accomplished is now acknowledged by all men, and therefore our citizens can feel sympathy for the people of Boston in their struggle with the gambling and the midst of their trouble. The Governor Ledges has been most outspoken in his assaults upon a gambling house that has become rich enough to buy secret official support, and to obtain a certain amount of police recognition and countenance. The average policeman never yet has been able to comprehend the risk men can be criminally engaged. Marble halls and gilded saloons have such an effect upon his moral sense as to wipe out all idea of those infractions of law which he recognizes easily when they are carried on in the back room of a cigar store. The best element of Tacoma has been behind the Ledges, and that paper made such a hot fight of it that recourse has been had to incendiaries, and the newspaper offices were destroyed recently, with a loss of \$30,000. Rewards have been offered of \$1,500 for such information as will lead to the conviction of the criminal, and the Society for the Suppression of Vice would do well to make the cause of the Ledges its own, and to run the gamut of the law. Let virtue be asperited in action as vice, and the latter will surely be conquered.

UNVARNISHED FACTS. No Landler has ever written a song, and no Finlander has ever written a book. No wonder they are a happy people. Among Twain's many made a funny speech not written out a joke for two or three years, but in explanation he says he has had two cradles to rock and a baby carriage to push around. Among the Chinese heaven is odd, earth is even, and the numbers one, three, five, seven, nine belong to heaven, while the even digits of two, four, six, eight belong to earth. Twenty years ago there were ninety-two lightning rod factories in the United States. To-day there are but three, and those doing only a few business. The lightning rod was the biggest lumber of the nineteenth century. Out of fifty people at a Cincinnati banquet that would make common, ten would not touch turkey, eighteen would have nothing to do with salad, fifteen refused coffee, twenty would eat cheese alone and not over twenty would touch cake.

One of the Caroline islands is owned by an American sailor named Benjamin, who has six wives, about fifty children, and is willing to do, but smoke his pipe and beat the ranch. He published a letter in a California paper advising other sailors to do likewise. A correspondent of the Evening Post writes: "I took a little friend of mine—aged four years—to the Panistie corner, corner of Fifth and Broadway, in New York, on Sunday, and he was so delighted with the procession—a usual feature of the church—that he exclaimed on seeing it, 'I guess that's for me. It's a parade, and God is elected.'"

Joseph Linsinger, who lives about twenty miles northeast of Washburn, Ind., is proprietor of a skunk ranch. He has been in that state. Mr. Linsinger established his "skunkery" last spring, with only a few animals, but he has since raised a large stock. The skunk is an animal easily raised, and is quite valuable for its oil and fur. The skin is worth from 75 cents to \$1.00, and the yield of oil is about the same value.

As this is the season of the year for the exchange of gifts, St. John's county (Ga.) comes to the front with the most novel record. A young man near St. Augustine, though having sound teeth, had them too near for beauty, so he had his teeth extracted, took them to a jeweler, where they were polished, dried, and mounted in gold as a pair of earrings for his best girl.

WESTERN WAIFS. Montana lynchings hung a couple of stockings up on Christmas eve simply because they had a horse thief in them.

A year ago yesterday the thermometer in St. Louis reached twenty-seven degrees below zero. But the thermometers have been kept in warmer places this year.

The Pawnee Indians have become so civilized that most of the bucks wear paper collars, the squaws wear red stockings, and all are catching on to popular songs and slang words.

The town of Dunleith, having offered \$300 and a town lot to the first baby born within its limits, a lady living 300 miles distant went grocery buying, accompanied by a young boy, and finished up the entire transaction in less than forty-eight hours.

"All that is silver ore, is it?" said Mrs. Snuggs, as she examined a piece of curious looking mineral in a Denver smelter. "Yes, my dear," said her husband. "And how do they get the silver out of it?" "They melt it," "Well, that's queer," she said, after applying her nose to the ore. "I smell it, too, but I don't get any silver."

Two female horse thieves escaped from jail at Hutchinson, Kan., one night lately. They had been stealing horses for a year, and had a fine record, including two swindled animals from Hutchinson. Large rewards had been offered, but until their attempt to steal a carriage with the horses, they had successfully eluded the officers. The girls are of a dashy type, both blondes and handsome. One says she is the daughter of a Philadelphia minister, and the other claims to be the daughter of a wholesale clothing dealer in Boston. Their names are unknown.

A cat caused the death of James Summers, a Union Pacific brakeman, in Wyoming the other day. The animal belonged to Charles Noland, a neighboring cowboy, and got on the track at Cheyenne. It is supposed from a low shed adjoining the water tank. The goat was called "Dio" and was trained to clear the sticks from a signal in the third act of the play. After the train left Cheyenne, Oteo chewed the bell cord while the train drove two of the brakemen to the caboose, where they remained in mortal terror, believing the animal was a wild cat. Summers was on the front of the train and had not seen the goat until the latter rushed at him full tilt. In the darkness he staggered, lost his balance, and fell from the train. His companions, seeing over the top of the car, saw his lamp go out. They could not stop the train, as the bell-cord had been

WATSON'S WORK.

What Members Say About the Committee—Other Gossip. LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 10.—[Special to The Bee.]—There are various opinions among the members in regard to the make-up of the house committee. The following, taken at random, will show the drift of the prevailing sentiment: Said a prominent farmer "It looks as though Speaker Watson made up the committee of his friends and slighted those who did not favor his candidacy for the speakership. This, I think, a very bad principle, and should not have controlled the speaker in dispensing his favors."

A staunch friend of the speaker from the South Platte country remarked, "I think there is considerable dissatisfaction over the way he treated some of his friends."

One western member said he did not get a clerkship said: "I am very well satisfied. He could not please everybody."

A North Platte farmer and staunch anti-monopolist in commenting on the make-up of the committee, was heard to remark: "It is no more than I expected. We were knocked out on the caucus and are still out."

A cautious member from the North Platte country, who does not wish his name mentioned under any circumstances, whispered to the Hon. man in the strictest confidence: "I have not given the matter much thought as yet, but I will say that from Mr. Watson's standpoint I think he made a very judicious arrangement of the committee."

Promont Everett, representative from the float district, composed of Burt and Washington counties, was a very zealous supporter of Dempster and strongly favored submission, spoke as follows: "The only fault I have to find with the make-up of the committee on constitutional amendments, is that a Republican Valley farmer who made an excellent record two years ago remarked: 'I may think pretty hard, but have nothing to say for publication.'"

A young member from western Nebraska, who is a member of the committee on the election of a chairman, smilingly said: "I am perfectly satisfied. I got all I asked for, and what other member can say as much?"

A South Platte anti-monopolist and ex-member of wide experience, expressed his opinion as follows: "It is a genuine give and take. The committee has made up in its interests. At least ten of the fifteen members of the railroad committee are solid with the roads and will block all railroad legislation."

Representative Caldwell wears a broad smile. He says: "Lincoln has no reason to be satisfied with the make-up of the committee. McBride is chairman of the committee on public lands and buildings. What more could we ask?"

Gilchrist, the rustler from Box Butte, is chairman of the committee on agriculture in this country. He says: "I am not an important committee member, but I am satisfied with the speaker's work so far as he is personally concerned."

Representative Westover of Valley, has tackled the B. & M. railroad in great shape. He proposes to compel them to pay the back taxes for '88 and '89 which they escaped by picking a day in the manner in which the property was listed. Valley county will be the gainer if his bill runs the gamut of the legislature. Westover is wise in getting it out of the clutches of the railroad committee, for it is a matter of fact that the committee will make a hard fight for it."

The ways and means committee had a session yesterday to consider McBride's bill transmitting \$120,000 from the insane to the general state fund. The bill is likely to go through with a rush and may be the first law enacted.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

What Ex-Consul Muttini Says of De Lesseps' Great Project. Late Wednesday afternoon Angelo Muttini, ex-consul from Italy to Guatemala, arrived in Omaha from the west, en route to New York. Mr. Muttini is making a tour of the continent and is the owner of a large coffee plantation in Guatemala. He recently left the great project upon which the eyes of the world, and particularly of France, are fastened—the Panama canal. In speaking of the matter to a reporter, he said: "It is a wonderful project, but there is a vast amount of crookedness in connection with it. I know of several men who went there without a dollar that are to-day independently rich. The operating element form one vast combine, and it is composed of men from the chief engineer down to the gang foremen. They have exhausted volumes of money and collateral, the major portion of which has been appropriated for their own private purposes. I can give you names of men who have obtained fortunes running up into the hundreds of thousands by defrauding the projectors. I saw one of them fall short of a million. That was before I visited his wonderful undertaking. He was badly confused over it, and told me that he feared that the business would be ruined to fall far short of the required amount."

An Old "Bee" Boy. H. A. Kondrick, formerly an attaché of the Bee, but now employed on a Chicago paper, sent neatly engraved cards to Messrs. Drexel, Maul and Gish yesterday morning informing them of his marriage to an estimable young lady, and stating that he and his wife would be at home at No. 3421 Franklin avenue, Chicago, after the 15th of the present month.

The Lamp Upped. An upsetting of the lamp in one of the rooms of the old Brownell hall building about 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning called out the fire department. The explosion of the lamp caused a big blaze for a few minutes, but the flames were promptly extinguished after about \$25 worth of damage was done.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Declare a Dividend. The annual meeting of the Western Casket company took place yesterday at the office of the company. The following officers were elected for the present year: L. A. Bryan, president and secretary; J. A. McCarty, treasurer; C. S. Beck, vice president. A dividend of 64 per cent was declared on four months' business.

LET THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

He also informed me that he was in strong hopes of obtaining support in America, principally in the United States. I asked him how much money was required to complete the work, and he told me that it would require a large amount, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500,000,000. He had hopes of securing the loan or advancement of that amount. I left him at Havre, and for a man of his age, he is looking as well as could be expected.

"New work" of the canal is as well completed, it will be no great thing in the line of a traffic channel. In this country we are equipped with ways that give direct communication between all important points. The bulk of the marine traffic is destined to be from the eastern section of the country, and for that reason the commercial route is the shortest by crossing the Atlantic you have but one system to carry an inland traffic, the railway, and one for marine traffic, the Atlantic ocean. The traffic that would call the canal into service would be of minor importance, for certainly would not warrant the expenditure of all this money. Rapid transit is the question that agitates the public to-day."

In speaking of the condition of the inhabitants of Panama, he stated that he had men in his employ that while they were not regarded as slaves, he had the privilege of whipping them, and for any reason neglected their work. The men work three days per week and receive 30 cents for the services for this period. The remainder of the week is customary for them to bathe in the waters and enjoy themselves at various sports. The climate, he stated, of the isthmus of Panama was unhealthy and that three Italian consuls had died there within the past two years. He left Havre for New York.

HAD A BARREL FULL.

How a Dealer in Game Was Trapped Yesterday Morning. The Omaha club is not letting up one bit in its raids on game dealers, who are exhibiting and offering for sale game out of season, and are active and watchful. The lesson taught a few dealers Wednesday in Judge Morrison's court is having its effect, and quail, prairie chicken and other birds that went out of season several days ago and have been openly sold by dealers have disappeared like magic from public gaze. But this, it is claimed, is only a rise to throw the members of the gun club of the sport, which will be no easy task as was demonstrated yesterday morning when a dealer was nearly caught. He was fortunate and got away mainly unscathed and asked for quail. The storekeeper said he had none, but when the gentleman represented that they were for his sick wife, the former remembered that he had the birds and lead the supposed customer to a whole barrel of them. The birds were packed in a box, and the dealer under mortgage.