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BISMARCK.

Legislative Notes.

BISMARCK, Jan. 21.—The governor's message which was made a special order for yesterday afternoon at three o'clock, will not be considered until to-morrow afternoon.

The delay in Governor Church's confirmation is looked upon with alarm by many of the democrats, but the disinterested ones have no doubt that he will be confirmed. A lively skirmish is now in progress between the factions of the house, resulting from the written agreement entered into by the seven bolting members of the southern combination and the northern members. The written pledge was signed by the various members of the new combination, and now that three or the southern bolters have gone back to their old love, an effort is being made to take the documents out of the hands of Mr. Williams, leader of the north. John Hobart is perhaps the most generally exoriated man in the house just now, as he it was who made the overtures to the northern members. He signed it, and gave a written pledge to stand by certain legislation, and in less than twenty-four hours he violated the pledge. A caucus was held last evening of all the members of the house to dispose of the written pledges, but as yet no disposition has been made, and it will be very strange if the newspapers do not get hold of copies of the same.

The conference committee on the bill extending the time when taxes must be paid agree to report the house bill amended by substituting July for June as the time when the penalty attaches and in this form the bill passed both houses. Taxes become delinquent Feb. 1, and July 1, the penalty of five per cent attaches.

The committee appointed for the purpose reported that there is a saloon in the basement of the capitol building, and reported a bill to smother it.

The granger members, by forming an anti-hack riding combination have forced the Jehus down from 25 to 10 cents.

TUESDAY, JAN. 25

The only incident that occurred in the house today, which varied the monotony of the usual grind, was the return by Gov. Pierce of house bill 23. This bill, which extended time when taxes should become delinquent to July 1, passed both houses, and was sent to the executive yesterday. In the communication accompanying the bill the governor stated that the attorney general had submitted his opinion in writing to the effect that the bill as at present framed will not prevent the distraint and sale of property for unpaid taxes at once under section 53 of the revenue law. That he was sure that the legislature would wish to avoid this. He suggests an additional clause doing away with this objection, otherwise the county treasurers were bound to seize and sell property or be liable on their official bonds. The attorney general's written opinion was transmitted with the communication. The matter was referred to the judiciary committee, which during an informal recess, met and drew up another bill similar to the one rejected, but containing a provision which did away with the objection pointed out. The new bill was read under suspension of the rules, and passed unanimously.

A communication from the Farmer's Alliance, of Cass county was read, containing several recommendations which were somewhat unique. The Alliance requested that all county officers be placed on salaries, in no case exceeding \$3,000, exclusive of clerk hire; that the fee system be abolished; that a municipal form of government be adopted similar to that of New York state; that a residence of one year in the territory and 90 days in a precinct be required to constitute a legal voter; that the sense of the meeting was in favor of local option.

Among the bills introduced were the following:

By Mr. Hawk—Changing the date of the annual election in civil townships.

By Mr. Greene—Introducing a bill which prescribes a penalty for the violation of the law requiring hides of meat cattle to be kept 10 days after slaughtering and prohibiting the destruction of the brands on the hides.

By Mr. Mentor—Prescribing the time and place of holding United States court for the second judicial district; providing this court be held at Mitchell; that two terms be held annually, in April and November. This bill has been expected and feared by South Dakota members. It contemplates, of course, the removal of the court from Yankton. The fight over it will be bitter and prolonged. Only a little less strong will be the opposition to Mr. Gilbert's bill introduced yesterday, taking the supreme court from Deadwood and Yankton to Sioux Falls. This latter bill will give the Black Hills delegation an opportunity of showing their fighting qualities.

By Mr. Terrill—Requiring county commissioners to give bond for \$2,000.

By Mr. Hubbard—Regulating the time when delinquent taxes shall become due, providing that all taxes shall be duly paid by installments, one-half due the 1st of February, and one-half due the 1st of October. If the first installment be not paid in full or part when due, the whole becomes due and payable. If the second half be not paid when due, then the taxes become delinquent. All proceedings thereafter, same as now and under the present law.

Glendinning's house bill, prohibiting the sale of liquors in quantities, in counties where no license existed, except as provided, also based.

The house memorial to congress, protesting against the abandonment of Ft. Lincoln, was passed.

The attorney general sent in a communication, in response to an inquiry, stating there is no provision made by congress, for the selection of lands, in lieu of school lands in Dakota, which have been otherwise appropriated. There is evidently a strong disposition on the part of many influential members in council and house, to push legislation, requiring the taxation of sleeping cars, refrigerator cars, telephones and other conveniences which now contribute nothing towards territorial expenses. Bills for this purpose are soon to be introduced, ably supported it is said.

Asking Protection.

The following petition is being circulated and most generally signed, by the law abiding people of Dakota, and will be presented to the legislature:

To the Honorable, the Legislature of Dakota in session at Bismarck:

The increasing and alarming frequency of assault upon women, and the frightful indignities to which even little girls are subject, have become the shame of our boasted civilization.

The study of the revised codes of Dakota has revealed the astonishing fact that the age at which a little girl may legally consent to her own ruin is ten years.

Therefore, we, the men and women of the Territory of Dakota, do most earnestly appeal to you to raise this age to at least eighteen years, and we call attention to the disgraceful fact that protection to the person is not placed by our laws upon so high a plane as the protection of the purse.

We also pray you, to enact such statutes as shall provide for the adequate punishment of crimes against women and girls.

Ballou's Magazine.

We have received this well-known publication for February. Nothing is more notable about this periodical than its constant improvement under its new management—giving nearly one hundred pages, each month, of the choicest literature. It should be in every family, as its price, \$1.50 per year, makes it one of the cheapest and best publications of its kind in the country. It is printed on the best of paper with handsome type; and contains entertaining, instructive and amusing reading for all. Now is the time to subscribe for this popular magazine. Published by G. W. Studlep, Boston, Mass.

House bill No. 13, introduced by Mr. Adams, was the first bill, regularly reported on by a committee, to pass the house. It passed the house Friday. It divides the 5th sub-division of the 6th district, and provides for a term of court at Cooperstown.

Gov. McEnery, of Louisiana, has issued a call for an Inter-state convention in the interest of stock raising, dairying, fruit growing, and general agriculture, to be held at Lake Charles, La., on the 2d, 2d and 24th of February, 1887.

In the debate Monday, over the fishery difficulties, Mr. Ingalls said:

The fishery difficulties must be ultimately settled, either by negotiation or by war. This measure was distinctly one of retaliation. It was an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a fish for a fish, an insult for an insult, a wrong for a wrong. It was important that the committee on foreign relations should advise the senate whether this measure was intended to be specific or hostile,

whether it was, in effect, an invention to negotiate or practically a declaration of war. There was no use in disguising the proposition. There was a feeling of irritation (the real party in interest being Great Britain, and not Canada), which was at any moment, if the present attitude was continued, liable to lead to discontent, which might ripen into exasperation, and this into open hostility. He quoted some sentences from the report of the committee on foreign relations, and remarked that countries had been inundated with blood on less provocation. The conduct of the dominion and of Great Britain (according to this report), was sufficient to justify and warrant a declaration of war on the part of the United States. It was a violation not only of treaty rights, but it showed a purpose on the part of the government of Canada and of her majesty's government to harass, annoy and destroy American fishing interests simply for the purpose either of private gain, or some public advantage. In view of these grave allegations in their irritation and discontent, known to exist between the two countries, the reporting of a measure which authorized the president to enter simply on a process of retaliation was hardly consistent with the gravity of the situation. It was a dangerous course to authorize the president to continue in the same line of conduct and policy, with the inevitable result, either of finally negotiating for the purpose of settling these questions or else going to war in defense of rights under the treaty of 1818. It would be better, more in accordance with the dignity of the subject and with the morality which ought to prevail among nations as among men to declare as the conviction of the senate that the relations between the two powers are such as to require negotiations and that these should be an authority not to issue letters of marque and reprisal, but to select a commission to consider the subject, and if possible, to reach some basis of understanding between Great Britain, Canada and the United States in regard to the fisheries.

Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan. 23, 1887.

Washington gains in popularity, as a rendezvous for the representatives of national interests and industries. Last week the national conventions assembled here; the farmers, the glass manufacturers, and the brick-layers.

This week six national bodies convened here; the Shipping League, the Board of Trade, the Potters' Association, the campment of Union Veterans, the society to prevent food adulteration, and the order of the Mystic Shrine. Every winter no less than fifty congresses of one sort or another, come to Washington, and in a few years more, there will be double that number. Next week, among the brotherhoods and sisterhoods that are coming, will be the women who want to vote. A Female Suffrage Convention at the capitol, is now an annual certainty. The prominent advocates of this cause, have met here every winter, as regularly as has congress, for the past fifteen or sixteen years.

Although legislation is now greatly behind the record of former short sessions, business is being pushed this week in both branches of congress. Prominent among measures that have been discussed and acted upon were pension bills, especially the one for the relief of dependent parents, and honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, disabled and dependent upon their own labor for support. Twelve dollars per month is the amount allowed to each, and the mover of the bill estimated that it would cost the government six million a year. This measure was passed by the house only, and it is a little doubtful how it will fare in the senate.

There is much reconnoitering around the capitol on tariff and revenue questions. The Randall men, and particularly Mr. McAdoo, Mr. Randall's New Jersey protege, are apparently hard at work evolving some scheme by which to get the better, if that is possible, of their brethren who think protection is a sin. The work, however, is not all on one side. Col. Morrison, is marshaling his forces for the fray. On the floor of the house, along the corridors, and in the committee rooms, knots of members, usually democrats, and the words, tobacco, fruit, brandy, lumber, sugar, wool, salt, etc., can be heard from every side. How much will come of this, no one can predict; but it is quite evident that the democratic protectionists contemplate an attack on the democratic blunders of low tariff proclivities.

It is probably now that the weather bureau will become a branch of the civil service. The death of Gen. Hazen, the chief officer of the signal service, and the consequent necessity for certain changes in the organization of the signal service, has revived the question of transferring the whole matter from the control of the War Department, to that of the Interior. There is nothing mili-

tary about the weather bureau, and therefore it does not belong to the War Department, although the argument has been advanced heretofore, that military discipline is necessary to secure accurate and prompt observations. Some claim that the work could be equally as well, if not better done, by civilians, and that it is time to do away with an expensive signal corps, which has nothing to do but practicing signalling. The present opportunity is probably the best for settling the subject forever, since there is no chief with personal feelings or official interests to be hurt by the change if made. WILLIAM JONES.

Commissioners' Proceedings.

Convened Jan. 13th, '87, at 10 a. m., according to adjournment.

Present, Comrs. Cooper, Moseley, Conant, Hogenenson and Hemmingson.

Comr. Cooper presiding.

Proceedings of last meeting were read and approved.

On motion the quarterly report of Andrew Johnson, justice of the peace, were accepted and the clerk ordered to issue orders for justice, sheriff and witness fees in case of Ter. vs. T. Robinson, to-wit: Andrew Johnson, justice fees, \$4.80; M. L. Michaels, sheriff fees, \$10.00; Edwin Olson, witness fees and mileage \$3.80; Solfest Fortney, \$4.40; Peter Syverson, \$2.20; Andrew Fortney, \$2.20; E. C. Evenson, \$2.80.

The books of the county clerk (H. P. Smart), and county treasurer (Anton Erger), having been examined and found to be correct, all vouchers entered upon the book as credits to Anton Erger, as county treasurer, prior to January 1st, 1887, on motion were received, cancelled and filed in the clerk's office, and a vote of thanks be tendered to H. P. Smart and Anton Erger for the thorough manner in which their books, as county clerk and treasurer, respectively, have been kept.

On motion the following bills for county commissioners were allowed (same paying them in full to the present time), viz: Rollin C. Cooper, \$60.00, C. H. Moseley, \$57.00, DeForest Conant, \$36.00, Nels Hemmingson, \$23.00, John Hogenenson, \$34.00.

On motion order was issued to Frank Pfeifer for road work, \$1.50.

Motion made and seconded that bill of Theo. F. Kerr, for visiting school dist. No. 2, as supt. of public schools, \$10.00, and bill of J. J. Howe & Co., for spikes and lumber, \$4.88, be allowed.

Motion made and seconded that the application of J. H. Vallandigham, for printing county commissioners' proceedings, etc., be laid on the table.

Motion made by Comr. Hemmingson and seconded by Comr. Hogenenson, that no license will be granted for 1887, the chairman instructed the clerk to call the roll which was done with the following result: Yes—Comrs. Hemmingson and Hogenenson. No—Comrs. Moseley and Conant. Yes—Comr. Cooper. Motion declared carried.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn to 1 p. m. Jan. 13th, '87.

ROLLEN C. COOPER, Chairman. Rollef Berg, Co. Clerk.

Commissioners' Proceedings.

Convened at 1 p. m., Jan. 13th, '87, according to adjournment, with full board present.

Motion made and seconded that the salary for the county clerk for the year of 1887 be \$500.00; also the salary of district attorney, \$500.00, and if the work of the district attorney shall increase to raise the salary, and the salary of snpt. of schools be \$350.00.

On motion the official bond of A. D. Ellis, as justice of the peace were approved and accepted.

On motion made and carried the janitor was instructed to obtain curtains for windows in the rooms of the district attorney and sheriff, judge of probate and school supt. and register of deeds.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn to February 25th, 1887, at 1 p. m., which motion was rescinded, and a motion made and carried that the official bond of P. A. Melgard, as justice of the peace, be approved and accepted, and that Rollin C. Cooper, as chairman of the board, be authorized to approve the official bond of W. R. Whidden, as justice of the peace, if he (Whidden), qualifies for said office to-day.

Motion made and seconded that the board adjourn to February 25th, 1887, at 1 p. m.

ROLLEN C. COOPER, Chairman. Rollef Berg, Co. Clerk.

A Close Call.

NIAGARA FALLS, Jan. 23.—A sewer a quarter of a mile in length, running under the town, and forms part of the bed of Muddy Run creek, which, during thaws in winters, is swollen into a rushing torrent of large volume, which empties into the Niagara river over the precipice near the whirlpool rapids. This river was ruing fifteen miles an hour last evening, when Bertha Farrell, aged four years, who was seated

in a hand sled, slid into it. Her sister, Blanche, aged ten, jumped in after, and both were swept into the sewer. A rush was made for the other end of the sewer, and men secured by ropes jumped into the water and waited for the children to appear. Bertha came first under the Water, and Blanche, followed on top. When taken out both were apparently lifeless, but after much difficulty they were resuscitated.

Banquet to Gen. Lee.

ST. PAUL, Jan. 23.—A banquet given at the Hotel Ryan, St. Paul, last evening, in honor of Gen. Fitz Hugh Lee, who in response to the toast, "The New South," after paying a handsome compliment to the people of the northwest, said:

If we had known each other better before the war, that might have been averted. But all that conflict is over. We are back once more in the house of our fathers, with a reputation to sustain as a state of the Union. Personally, I stand midway between extremes, with a scar from a war where I fought for what I believed right—while one of my colored boys, is named Jefferson Davis and one Abraham Lincoln. Virginia is proud to take her place by the side of Minnesota, in the glittering crown, that binds the brow of the American Union."

Devoured by Wolves.

MANISTIQUE, Mich., Jan. 23.—Joseph Armstrong and Frank Holms, have been hunting and trapping in Delta county, for several weeks. Saturday, while a tring traps, Holmes cut his leg badly, and his companion went for help. Within an hour he returned, only to find a few bloody bones, some scraps of clothing, a bloody axe, and a revolver. Round about were the carcasses of five wolves which Holmes had killed in the fight for his life. Wolves are unusually bold this season.

Land Decisions.

The following is a digest of land decisions, compiled by S. W. Snow, land attorney, 1338 T St., Washington, D. C.

Commuted Homestead—Referring to alleged decision of Judge Blair, of Wyoming, that a person who commutes his homestead entry under Sec. 2,301, U. S. R. S., does not thereby exhaust his homestead rights, the commissioner, under date of Dec. 20, 1886, in a letter to a firm at West Plains, Mo., stated that "if Judge Blair has made the decision attributed to him, it will not be recognized or respected by this office.

Purchase under act of June 15, 1880—Jurisdiction to consider an application under the act of June 15, 1880, to purchase land for which patent has been issued may be conferred upon the land department by the surrender of said patent, where the entry falls within the terms of the statute. Case of Thorp Williams, et al cited and distinguished. Sec'y to Com'r, Dec. 23, 1886, case Wm. H. Bizzell.

Timber Culture Entry.—Land rendered "devoid of timber" by the removal of a natural growth is not subject to timber culture entry.—Sec'y to Com'r Dec. 23, 1886, case of Albert H. Sadler.

Osage Indian Lands.—The statutory oath required of a pre-emptor is not applicable to an entry under the act of May 28, 1880. By this act the only condition pre-requisite to an entry of these lands is that the purchaser shall be an actual settler with the qualifications of a pre-emptor. The case of Morton vs. Craig overruled.—Sec'y to Comr, Dec. 23, 1886, case U. S. vs. Woodbury, et al.

Timber Culture—Fraudulent Entry.—No fixed rule can be formulated by which to determine just what shall constitute an entry fraudulent or speculative. If the entryman has fully complied with the law as to breaking, cultivation and planting, his entry should not be cancelled, unless clearly shown by the evidence to be illegal.—Sec'y to Com'r, Dec. 27, 1886, case Gilbert E. Reed.

Timber Culture Contests—Acts performed in compliance with the law, after the affidavit of contest was filed, but before notice was served, and proper subjects of evidence.—Sec'y to Com'r, Dec. 27, 1886, case Farnsworth vs. Hudson.

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