

AT RAILROAD SPEED,

The Populists Rushing Things at Topeka.

Argument Before the Supreme Court on the Contest.

A Decision Is Expected at 9 O'clock Tomorrow Morning—Activity in the Senate.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 24.—The lawyers representing the Republican and Populist house of representatives respectively had the attention of the supreme court all day yesterday. The aim of those representing the Populist house was to show that the supreme court had no jurisdiction to determine the membership of a legislative body. They argued that any organization purporting to be the house of representatives and receiving the recognition of the governor and senate is the de facto house and that there is no power that can question its claim after being so recognized. A decision will be rendered at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning and it is generally conceded that the Republicans will be sustained.

The Populist house rushed business through at railroad speed. The maximum freight rate bill was passed without amendment or debate. Other bills on the calendar were taken up and passed as rapidly as they could be read. Two reading clerks were at work simultaneously each reading a separate bill at the same time.

Among the more important measures passed was an act relating to the time for the commencement of civil action; to prescribe the mode of payment of all obligations of debt to be paid in money; an anti-Pinkerton detective bill; to compel railroad and other assessors to assess railroad and other property at its true value in money; for the protection of shippers of grain and seeds; regulating weights of grain and establishing grades; to protect cities and townships against illegal or fraudulent acts of their officers.

The senate was almost as active as the Populist house. The Australian ballot law and the bills providing for the assessment and collection of taxes were passed, as was the maximum freight rate bill, and a bill reducing the salary of the warden of the penitentiary to \$1,000, of the superintendent of mines \$1,500 and of the physicians to the penitentiary to \$1,000 was recommended for passage in committee of the whole.

In the Republican house little effort was made to transact business. Many of the members were absent and at no time was there a quorum present. The Republicans are disposed to wait for the decision of the supreme court before attempting to transact any business.

NEW KANSAS OFFICIALS.

Three Members of the Pardon Board and Two Penitentiary Directors Named.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 24.—Governor Sewelling yesterday appointed J. McDonald of Labette county, John Willis of Jefferson county and S. Willoughby of Reno county as members of the pardon board.

several personal friends, he will sail on the New York for Europe to take charge of the United States case before the Behring sea arbitrators.

Counsel for the United States, E. J. Phelps, J. C. Carter and H. W. Blodgett expect to sail on Saturday, March 1, in the Normandie for Havre. In addition to the arguments these gentlemen will make to the arbitrators, it is understood, there will also be presented a brief from the United States, prepared by Mr. Frederick R. Couderc, the prominent New York lawyer.

BERNARD KELLY HONORED.
The Kansas Politician, Frencher Elected Commander of the G. A. R.

PIRRSBURO, Kan., Feb. 24.—The twelfth annual state encampment of the G. A. R. closed a three days session last evening. Yesterday afternoon the Rev. Bernard Kelly was elected department commander, defeating W. H. Coulter. W. Y. Morgan of Emporia was elected division colonel of the Sons of Veterans. Memorial services were held at the Methodist church last evening in honor of the late Leland J. Webb, past commander-in-chief of the Sons of Veterans. About 2,500 veterans marched in the parade yesterday.

A SYSTEMATIC SUICIDE.

Jephtha Simpson, an Aged Millionaire, Ends His Life With a Razor.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 24.—A most deliberate suicide was committed here yesterday morning by a quarter millionaire, Jephtha H. Simpson. He prepared for death as he would retire to sleep. He undressed and donned his night robe. He put on his night cap. A foot bath tub was drawn near to the bed and Simpson then lay down on his right side. From the position of the body when found the suicide evidently stretched his head out from the bed in order to have his throat above the tub. He used the razor with his left hand and out a series of gashes on the right side of his throat. The jugular vein and the arteries were severed and the old man's life blood poured in a stream into the receptacle placed below for the purpose.

The dead man was a well known insurance man and was worth \$250,000 or more and had no known cause for the deed. He was 65 years old.

HUGE LIABILITIES.

Those of the National Capitol Bank of Lincoln, Neb., Exceed \$100,000.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 24.—Another lot of forged paper, aggregating \$300,000, has been brought to light in the Capitol national bank case. It is now stated by conservative men who are intimate with the affairs of the institution that the bank's liabilities will exceed \$1,200,000 with the assets practically nothing. Mosher admits that the efforts to raise money to settle his shortage have failed. It is not expected that the bank will pay to exceed ten cents on the dollar.

A Chorus From Missouri.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 24.—Earnest efforts are being made to get up a first class chorus as a feature of Missouri's part in the world's fair. In furtherance of this object a circular has been prepared and sent to people whom it is desirable to interest in the matter asking their assistance. There is every reason to believe the efforts will result successfully.

Nebraska City, Badly Scorched.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Feb. 24.—The dry goods store of W. C. Lambeth & Bro. was completely destroyed by fire at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. The stock in the building adjoining, occupied by E. W. Peirce, dry goods and

MR. VEST IS PLEASED

He Returns Thanks for a Vote of Confidence.

Mr. Kerr Goes After the State Smelling Committee.

Valuation of Convict Labor—Annual Assessment of Real Estate—Other Legislation.

JACKSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 24.—A letter was read in the house yesterday from George G. Vest, in which he expressed his pleasure that the Democratic members had by resolution and vote expressed their confidence in his ability and patriotism.

Mr. Kerr introduced a resolution to inquire why the committees appointed to visit and inspect the various state institutions have not made their reports, and whether the members are still drawing their extra pay. The law requires that such reports shall be rendered ten days after the sitting of the general assembly.

Mr. Fogle explained that before the general assembly convened Senator Hines was compelled to defer his work by sickness in his family. Since the convening of the assembly, Mr. Davison, another member of the committee, had been sick all the time, but that despite sickness the report would be handed in in a few days. The resolution was indefinitely postponed.

Senator Walker called up his resolution introduced January 12, providing for the appointment of a joint committee to investigate and report the proper valuation to be placed upon convict labor, and the resolution prevailed.

Senator Love introduced a bill to prohibit insurance companies, which desire to discontinue business in this state, from reinsuring their risks in other companies not authorized to do business in this state.

A majority of the committee appointed to visit St. Louis and report upon the condition of the asylum for the blind; the advisability of selling the property now used and buying other, also the report upon the advisability of the underground conduit system for wires, rendered an adverse report, which was referred to committee on cities, towns and villages. A minority favorable report was also presented by Senator Yeater.

The bill provided for the annual assessment of real estate was ordered engrossed.

Newberry's bill, requiring trust companies to make regular reports to the state insurance commissioner, was also ordered engrossed.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 24.—Charles Erath, a tailor of this city, was yesterday presented by his wife with twin girls which are probably the smallest babes now living. One of them weighs eighteen ounces while the other tips the scale at twenty ounces; either one can be easily placed in an ordinary teacup and yet there will be room to spare. The midwife was bright and hearty and will live. Both of the parents are parsons of large stature.