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It is half-past three o'cleck; and as the House, when fairly at work, in the middle of the session, meets precisely at four, it is necessary, in order to witness the entrance of "Mr. Speaker," and other formalities which are a part of the evening's proceedings of this great national council, that we take our stand in the outer or "strangers" lobby, where there are already assembled the numerous parliamentary agents, clerks, and other functionaries interested in the "private business" of the House: some to canvass members for their support of private bills-others to influence their opposition to such measures.

Precisely at ten minutes of four, a voice is heard from the corridor leading to the Speaker's room, announcing the approach of "Mr. Speaker." The inspector of police, who stands where the corridor enters the lobby, cries out, "Hats off, strangers!" and every man is immediately uncovered. The doors of the House are then thrown open, and, preceded by a messenger of the House in full dress. with his silver-gilt badge suspended from his neck, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, in court costume, with the massive mace on his shoulder, "Mr. Speaker" in his robes, and accompanied by his chaplain, is seen approaching, his sweeping train being borne by another messenger in full court livery. On the Speaker's approach to the door, the principal doorkeeper proceeds to the door and cries out, "Mr. Speaker," whereupon the members present at once fall into their respective places, and, standing uncovered, reverently bow as that functionary passes.

On his entrance into the House, "Mr. Speaker" does not at once take the chair, but stands at the table while the Chaplain reads the prayers. When prayers commence, the doors of the House are closed, and the door-keeper announces that "Mr. Speaker is at prayers," and at the same time rings a bell, or rather sets going a machine which causes a simultaneous ringing of bells in all parts of the House where members are likely to be. In about seven minutes "prayers are over," which fact is formally announced by the doorkeeper, and the bells are again set in motion. The doors of the House are then opened, and as soon as "Mr. Speaker" has ascertained that the requisite "forty" members are in the House, he takes the chair. The doorkeeper then calls out, "Mr. Speaker is in the chair," and the order of business for the night begins. It sometimes happens that, when the hand of the clock points to four, there are not forty members present. In this case the Speaker at once adjourns the House. This never, however, occurs on Government nights, or when Government wants "to make a House;" for on these nights the "Whips" always take care to secure the attendance of the requisite num-

The circumstances under which failures "to make a House" occur are generally these:-It is a public night, which means that motions of private members take precedence—there is no-thing important on the paper; on the contrary, there are several notices of motions put there by members of no standing in the House, which it is known will lead to nothing but hours of dreary talk. Of course, as the Government is not interested, its agents will not "make a House;" and when those who have not sufficient influence to secure the attendance of forty members-and the members generally are not disposed to waste a night watching proceedings which they care nothing about and which they know will be perfectly fruit-less—it often happens that out of the 658 members, it is impossible to get forty to attend. Indeed, sometimes we have known an active canvass to keep members away; and it is no uncommon thing to see a hundred members in the lobby, when it is found impossible to get thirty in the House. The failure to make a House is often a severe disappointment and mortification to those members who have motions set down. Fancy a man spending weeks in poring over Blue-Books, extracting their contents, elaborating his speech, and then hurrying down to the House on the great important day, full of his subject, he finds the doors shut, and learns from the solitary policeman who paces the lobby that there is "no House."

The "count out" is another favorite and not uncommon mode of getting rid of a dreary speaker and a disagreeable subject. It generally takes place between the hours of seven and eight, and is managed in this wise:-The time we will suppose is half-past seven. The honorable member for --- has been up for an hour, and the wearisome tide of talk shows no sign of exhaustion. Most of the members have gone to dinner at their respective clubs, or at the dining-room of the House; and now there are not more than forty-five or fifty members present. There is a general disposition to get rid of the speaker and his motion. The Government will be saved the trouble of reply, which, by-the-way, is sometimes very convenient. The young members want, perhaps, to go to the opera-the old members will be glad of a night's rest, and all see that a holiday may be secured without any injury

to the State.

The first symptom of "a count" is the congregation of a dozen or twenty members in the inner lobby, anxiously peering through the glass doors. Some knowing hand slides in, and, sliding up to different members in the House, tells them what is a-foot, and then glides out again. Presently others are seen quietly leaving, one by one, without any apparent concert. Some member then goes to the back of the Speaker's chair and counts the members present. There are just forty, with "Mr. Speaker." There are too many for the count to be attempted, as others may drop in. Another leaves, and then another, and so on, until there are only thirty-two or thirty-three left. The member behind the chair then comes forward and calls "Mr. Speaker's" attention to the fact that there are not forty members present. The orator drops down in the midst of his harmgue; the clerk of the table turns a three-minute sand-glass, the doorkeeper rings his bell; and when the sand in the glass is run out, "Mr. Speaker" proceeds to count the members, and then, if forty be not present, he declares the House adjourned. It sometimes happens that counts are attempted and fail. Perhaps the hon. member has made an arrangement with certain members who have gone to dine, to watch for the ringing of the bell, and to hurry back to keep the House, thinking that there is a division. This latter circumstance, however, does not often happen, as those who are trying to "work the yracle" station themselves at the doors, to intercept such members and any others who may be ignorant of what is up, and to prevent them from

entering. Some curious scenes occur before the doors on the occasion of a "count." A grave old gentleman is, perhaps, seen coming up the stairs, who, it is known, never sanctions a "count," and whose presence will "make" the House. He has not heard of the attempt,

INNER LIFE OF THE BRITISH | mind him; I'll keep him in chat." And B. HOUSE OF COMMONS. | starts off as if he were going home, and, meeting C., of course must stop to speak to an old acquaintance. "Ah, my worthy old friend, how are you? What! the gont friend, how are you? again?" This is enough. Get an old gentleman on the subject of his ailings, and he is quite safe for a much longer time than three minutes. While they are talking, the doorkeeper rings the bell and shouts out, "Who goes home?" and the old gentleman finds the "House is and the old gentleman holds the holds is up," and, perhaps, suspects that he has been "sold." The cry of the doorkeeper, "Who goes home?" and which he always shouts out when the House rises, is said to mean, "Who goes home with the Speaker to protect him?" and has descended down from those troublous times when it was not safe for "Mr. Speaker' to go home alone. We have said that the doorkeeper always utters this cry when the House adjourns; but one exception to the rule recurs to us, and probably it may be considered the only one for ages. During the session of 1855, the House had, for the first time in its history, a Deputy Speaker. This was in accordance with a resolution of the House, passed about four years previ ously; and on this occasion it was ruled that, as there was no Speaker to go home, the usual summons should not be made. In connection with this new arrangement concerning the business of the House may be mentioned a singular fact. The resolution was originally proposed by Sir R. H. Inglis, and is called "Inglis' Resolution," and it is a somewhat singular coincidence that it was acted upon, for the first time, on the day that

> There is another curious ceremony which is occasionally seen at the House, and, as it once led to a laughable scene, it is worthy of notice. When her Majesty gives her assent to bills either in person or by commission, "Mr. Speaker" is summoned to the House of Peers. The summoning officer is "the Usher of the Black Rod," who, in full court-dress, marches in grand state, with the black rod on his shoulder, to the door of the House of Commons. On his approach the door is locked by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and to gain admission the usher has to knock three times, which he does with grave solemnity. The door is then thrown open; the doorkeeper walks to the bar and shouts "Black Rod," and the usher, accompanied by the sergeant with the mace on his shoulder, marches up to the table of the House, both bowing as they advance. At the table, the usher holds his rod upright, delivers his summons, and then, still accompanied by the Sergeant-at-Arms, backs out of the House, stopping at every three or four steps to bow. Having arrived at the door, he turns round, and, followed by "Mr. Speaker," proceeds to the House of Peers. There "Mr. Speaker" hears the Royal assent given, and then, in due state, marches back to the House of When the Black Rod leaves the Commons. House of Commons, the doorkeeper calls out, "Make way for Black Rod;" and then, on the approach of the Speaker, "Make way for 'Mr. Speaker.' "

the baronet's death was announced in the

On the night alluded to, when "Black Rod" arrived, Lord Palmerston was answering Mr. Dsiraeli, and was speaking in a more impassioned manner than usual. The House was crowded in every part. All was silent as the grave, excepting the noble Lord, who had just said, "Is this the party ——?" when, before the sentence could be finished, the doorkeeper started forward and shouted out, "Black Rod." The noble Lord dropped as if he had been shot, and laughter, long and loud, now sinking and now rising again in a fresh peal, rang through the House. At first the noble Lord seemed completely stunned, but he soon recovered, and joined in the laughter as heartily as any one, and even "Mr. Speaker" could hardly draw down his risible muscles to a due tension, as the Black Rod marched up the

When her Majesty gives her assent in person, her concurrence is previously communi-cated to the clerk-assistant, who reads the titles of the bills, on which the royal assent is signified by a gentle inclination. If it be a bill of supply, the clerk pronounces in audible tone:-"La reigne remercie ses bons sujets, accepte leur bénévolence, et ansi le veult' ("The Queen thanks her good subjects, accepts their benevolence, and answers, 'Be it so.' ') To other public bills the form of assent is, "La reigne le veult" ("The Queen wills it so.") To private bills, "Soi fait comme il est désiré ("Be it as prayed.") She holds the prerogative of refusing her assent to laws passed by both Houses, but this right has not been exercised by any sovereign since the refusal of Queen Anne to sanction the Scotch Militia bill, in the year 1707.

When her Majesty opens Parliament, she goes in state to the House of Lords, and takes her seat upon the throne. The Commons are then summoned, and such members as please attend, with "Mr. Speaker" at the bar. The royal speech, prepared beforehand by the Ministry, is handed to the Queen by the Lord Chancellor, and read by her; after which, her Majesty retiring, the business of the session commences. The Commons return to their department, and, by way of form, read some bill to keep up their privilege of not giving priority to the royal speech. Two members appointed by Government then move and second "the address" in either House, thanking her Majesty for her "gracious" speech and each appoints a delegation to present it. In former days the debate upon the address was often very vehemently centested, and "amendments" or alterations, implying a refusal to accept the intended policy of the Ministry, were frequently proposed; but of late, although the leaders of the Opposition in each House usually criticize closely the topics contained in or omitted from the speech, the adtained in or omitted from the speech, the address is generally passed without further opposition. When Parliament is opened by Commission, the royal speech is read by one of the Commission, and the address passed in like manner.

There are other ceremonies and customs which might be described, but let those to which we have referred suffice. All such formulas no doubt appear trifling, and unsuitable to this practical age and country. They,

however, can do no harm, and are, at all events, interesting memorials of other times. But, while the simple usages described may, perhaps, be tolerated as harmless, the red-tape and circumlocution system practised not only in the governmental departments, but in every public office—civil and military—is much to be deplored. True, Red-tape, Routine & Co. do not confine their operations to monarchical institutions, as we have had sufficient opportunities of experiencing during the early progress of our late Rebellion; nevertheless, in England they are carried out to an extent certainly unparalleled. In illustration, let us tainly unparalleled. In illustration, let us take the correspondence to which that gallant, tough old "British Tar," Admiral Sir Charles Napier, was subjected on receiving his appointment as full Admiral. In an appeal to the House to appoint a Commission of Inquiry into the management of the navy, Sir Charles, with characteristic humor, refers to the facts thus:—"The Secretary of the Admiralty sent and moves along all unconscious of what is going on, and then a colloquy of this sort ensues:—"I say, B., here is old C. coming; you must go and stop him." "Oh, never ral, and then sent me a printed letter to tell

me I was an Admiral; then came a letter signed by two Lords of the Admiralty to tell me I was an Admiral. I then received a letter telling me to hoist my flag, and subsequently another letter telling me to lower it, with other communications from the Accountant-General and the Admiral at Portsmouth. What ridiculous nonsense !"

It would, perhaps, be impossible to find a more aptillustration of red-tapism than this, though there is little to exult over by way of contrast in modern legislation. - Northern Monthly and N. J. Magazine.

OBITUARY.

Death of Enited States Consul Gould, at Leith, Scotiand. LEITH, Scotland, July 22 -Mr. Daniel Gould, United States Consul at this place, died to-day.

Madame Musurus. A London correspondent recently announced A London correspondent recently announced the sudden death, from a diseased heart, of Madame Musurus, wife of the Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James. The deceased lady was the daughter of Prince Vogorides, and was born in 1819. When twenty years of age (in 1839) she married Musurus Pacha, a member of one of the most distinguished formula of of one of the most distinguished families of Constantinopie. Madame Musurus leaves two sons and four daughters. Sir Charles Monck,

The London papers announce the recent death of this baronet, at his seat in Northum-berland. Sir Charles was a liberal in politics, and twice represented the county of Northum-berland in Parliament. As a lover of the turf he was well known throughout England, and during his time ran a number of celebrated horses. The deceased had attained a ripe age at

Mrs. Polly Haynes, a Centenarian. The Hickman (Ky.) Courier announces the recent death of this lady, at the great age of 105 years. For a long time she had been possessed of the idea that she was destined to live for 125 years, and greatly regretted that her constitution failed her before she had seen that number

Mrs. Mira Abdy.

the time of his death, being in his eighty-eighth

The English papers announce the recent death of this well-known English poetess. She was born in London, in 1806, and was the niece of Horace and James Smith, the authors of "Rejected Addresses." At an early age she developed the genius for poetry which distinguished her in after years, many of her verses having been written before she entered her teens. About the year 1826 she married the Rev. John Channing Abdy, rector of St. John's, Horsleydown, and heaven much liked by the Horsleydown, and became much liked by the people of the parish for her attentions and kindness to the poor. Her first appearance in print was in 1828 in the New Monthly Magazine, under the initials of "M. A." Suos-quently, Mrs. Abdy became connected with the Metropolitan, in which she wrote under her own name. Her poems were collected into five volumes and published, for private circulation only, some years ago. While her verses never merited the highest encomings, they were very merited the highest encomiums, they were very pleasing to read, and being easy, flowery, and graceful, were popular with the reading public. The deceased was left a widow many years ago, with an only son, whose education she personally superintended.

The Unadilla Bank Failure. From the Albany Argus, August 3.

The Unadilla Times of Wednesday makes some disclosures affecting the management of this bank, which, if true, look very much like a huge and deliberate swindle on the part of those who owned and controlled it. We do not know how far these parties have made themselves liable to a criminal prosecution for the manner in which the farmers of Otsego and other counties have been cheated out of their hard earnings by alleged stock gambling, but for crimes of far less magnitude than are here charged against the Upadilla Bank managers, the State prisons have closed their doors for years on many less "respectable" financial operators. We hope the matter will be proped to the bottom, and it there has been criminal mismanagement, that it will be exposed and punished. These developments show that, while the national bank system has inspired the farmers with increased confidence, in the lallacious belief that it furnishes greater security for their deposits as well as for circulating notes, it has at the same time furnished a clock for bankers to carry on their dishonest speculations for many months without exciting suspicion. After referring to the assignment of Messrs, Watson & Hayes to Messrs, Sands & Loomis, the Times says:-

This step necessarily involves the question of their ability to pay the depositors not only of the old Unadilla Bank, but also those of the Unadilla National Bank. Since the organization of the latter institution large amounts of money from a wide section of country have been flowing into its capacious vaults for safe keeping. Widows and orphans contributed their mites, while the fortunate possessor of thousands freely added to the already overflowing fountain, all alike attracted by the glitter of equipage and by extravagant boastings of accumu-lating wealth. To avoid the unpleasant exhibit which the books of the bank would present with the record of such enormous amounts placed to the credit of depositors, to have been the policy of the bank officers to give the notes of Watson & Hayes, instead of certificates of deposit, for sums left with them, many persons not recognizing the difference. The amount of their habilities, we are informed, has not yet been ascertained, but are variously estimated from a quarter to half a million dollars. The assets are said to consist of bank stocks, real estate near home and in Buffalo, undeveloped gold diggings in Nevada, oil investments in Pennsylvania, and innumerable moonshine speculations with promises of corresponding remunerative returns. Such is the kind of property from which creditors are to extract dividends for their deposits, in most cases the production of honest industry and laborious toil. As yet no receiver has been appointed for the bank.

RISTORI.

Information of Madame Ristori's movements—by way of preinde to her reappearance here—already begins to creep into the newspapers. The eminent actress left Paris on the 15th of July for Mantua, there to confer with Signor Giacommetti in respect to his new play of Marie Antonette. The Italian author appears to be very confident, both as to the excellence and the success of his work. "I think Marie Antonette will be my most beautiful work," he writes, "and with Madame Ristori its success is assured." There is an old proverb about the proof of the pudding; but we cordially hope that the author's sanguine anticipations may be realized. Great care, we understand, is to be taken in the production of Marie Antonette, at the French Theatre in this city. The costumes and the scenery are said to be in course of preparation at Paris, under the direction of the best costumers and artists. A scenic artist in that city is likewise painting a new drop-curtain, of sumptuous beauty, for the French Theatre. Changes and improvements are meantime being carried out in the theatre, under Mr. Grau's personal direction. Among other thines, the parquette is to RISTORI. beauty, for the French Theatre. Changes and improvements are meantime being carried out in the theatre, under Mr. Grau's personal direction. Among other things, the parquette is to be furnished with a new floor. We could wish that the avenues of entrance and egress to this house might be made more commodious, The French Theatre was never a safe house, in view of the chance of a conflagration. Madame Ristori, we are assured, will leave Brest on the list of September, in the steamer Europe, which will, probably, arrive here on the 10th or 11th proximo. Madame Ristori's first appearance will be made on the 16th of September. Besides Marie Antonette, she intends to produce Beatrice, arranged in French, by Legouve, and a French adaptation, by the same author, of Schiller's Joan of Arc. We learn further that she intends, in the course of the season, to give recitations from Sacred Poetry, which will be varied and illustrated by original muste composed expressly for the purpose by Gounod. There is good reason to anticipate, therefore, that Madame Ristori's next engagement in New York will be even more interesting than was her last. From the Gazette des Etrangers, by the-way, we glean an item illustrative of the thoroughness of Madame Ristori's habits of dramatic study. Our readers probably are aware that the Empress of the French has lately made a sort of Marie Antoinette Museum at Little Trianop, once the residence of the beautifut, unfortunate Queen. Here are garnered up all the relics of Marie Antoinette; and to this sad, significant haunt has Madame Ristori repaired, to familiarze her mind with all that revives the character and career of the martyred sovereign.—New York

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This Company, favorably known to the community for over forty years, continues to insure against loss either permanently or for a limited til se. Also, on faily, on liberal terms.

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(No. 639) N. B. COR. CHESNUT AND SEVENTH STS. CAPITAL AND SURPLUS OVER \$300,006

INCOME FOR 1866, \$103,934, Losses Paid and Accrued in 1866, 847,000 Of which amount not \$3000 remain unpaid a: this date \$100,000,000 of property has been successfully insured by this Company in thirteen years, and Eight Hun-dred Losses by Fire promptly paid.

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JAMES B. ALVORD, Secretary

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PENN STEAM ENGINE AND PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS, MACHINIBIS, BOILER MAKERS, BLACK-SMITHE, and FOUNDERS, having for many years been in successful operation, and been exclusively engaged in building and repairing Marine and River Engines, high and low-pressure, from Boilers, Waten Tanks, Propellers, etc. etc., respectfully offer their services to the public as being fully prepared to contract for engines of all sizes, Marine, River, and Stationary; having sets of patterns of different sizes, are prepared to execute orders with quick despatch. Every description of pattern-making made at the shortest notice. High and Low-pressure Fine, Tubular, and Cylinder Boilers, of the best Pennsylvania charcoal iron. Forgings of all sizes and binds; Iron and Bruss Castings of all descriptions; Rog Turning, Screw Cutting, and all other work connected with the above business. PENN STEAM ENGINE AND Drawings and specifications for all work done at the establishment free of charge, and work guar

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The subscribers have ample wharf-dock room for repairs of boats, where they can lie in perfect satety and are provided with shears, blocks, falls, etc, etc, for raising heavy or light weights.

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SOUTHWARK FOUNDRY, FIFTH AND WASHINGTON Streets,
PHILADELPHIA.
MERRICK & SONS,
ENGINEERS AND MACHINISTS,
manufacture High and Low Pressure Steam Engines,
for Land, River, and Marine Service.
Boilers, Gasometers, Tanks, Iron Beais, etc.
Castings of all kinds, either iron or brass.
Iron Frame Room for Gas Works, Workshops, and
Railroad Stations, etc.

Railroad Stations, etc. Retorts and Gas Machinery, of the latest and most improved construction.

Every description of Plantation Machinery, and Sugar, Saw, and Grist Mills, Vacuum Pans, Open Steam Trains, Defecators, Filters, Pumping En-

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Sole Agents for N. Billeux's Patent Sugar Boiling
Apparatus, Nesmyth's Patent Steam Hammer, and
Aspinwall & Woolsey's Patent Centrifugal Sugar
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We are prepared to fill orders to any extent for our Well-known MACHINERY FOR COTTON AND WOOLLEN including all recent improvements in Carding, Spinning, and Weaving.

We invite the attention of manufacturers to our extensive works.

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SAFES. LOCKSMITH, BELL-HANGER, AND DEALER IN BUILDING HARDWARE, NO. 424 BACE STREET.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF FIRE and Burglar-proof SAFES on hand, with lust de doors, Dwelling-house Safes, free from dampness, Prices low.

C. HANSENFORDER,

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PROPOSALS.

I MPROVEMENT OF THE DES MOINES

J. RAPIDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
U. S. ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
DAYENPORT, IOWA, July 24, 1867.
Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be received at this office until 12 M., WEDNESDAY,
September 4, 1867, for excavating the prism and
constructing the embankment wall of the
Canal for the improvement of the navigation
of the Mississippi river at the Des Moines
Rapids.

Canal for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river at the Des Moines Rapids.

The Canal is to be about 7% (seven and one-half) miles long extending from Nashville to Keckuk, lowa. The width at the water aurface inside the canal to be 300 (three hundred) feet in embankment, and 250 (two hundred and fifty) feet in excavation, and in low water to be 5 (five) feet deep. All the material excavated from the prism of the canal to be used in building the embankment. The latter throughout the greater part of the distance will be about 300 (three hundred) feet from the Iowa shore. Where rock excavation occurs, the bottom of the canal will have a slope of 1% (one and one-half) inches to the mile. The embankmeat is to be built of earth clay and rock; to be 10(ten) feet wide on top, including the rip-rap covering; to be 2(two) feet above high-water mark, with slopes of 11% (one and one-half) base to 1 (one) vertical. The average thickness of the rip-rap protection to be 2% (two and one-half) feet on the river side, 2 (two) feet on the canal side, and 1 (one) foot on top.

All propositions must state the price at which each and every kind of work specified in the proposal is to be done, and no bid will be considered that is not definite in this respect.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

A printed copy of this advertisement must be attached to each proposal.

Each bid must contain a written or printed guarantee signed by two responsible persons.

Blanks for proposals of the form required, with form of guarantee, will be furnished at this office on application.

this office on application.

The price or prices in the contract will be considered as including the expense of farnishing all the materials and performing all the work, according to the plans and specifications exhibited at the letting.

The entire cost of the canal is estimated at \$2,068,845 (two million sixty-cisht thousand three hundred and forty-five). The amount appropriated by Congress is \$760,000 (seven hundred thousand dollars)—the contract can only be made to cover this amount.

Fifteen (15) per cent. of the amount of any work done or materials jurnished, at the contract price thereof, will be reserved until the whole work which is the subject of contract shall be entirely completed.

Persons desiring further information can obtain the

Persons desiring further information can obtain the same by calling at this office, where maps, plans, specifications, and form of contract can be consulted.

Proposals must be addressed to the undersigned, and should be endorsed "Proposals for
work on the improvement of the Des Moines
Eapida."

Lieut. Col. 35th Infantry,
T80 4w Byt Major General U.S. Army.