

Some messages were late in being delivered, but the recipients got out of bed at midnight to respond to the call.

The Republican house passed a resolution reviewing the situation, calling on all citizens of Kansas for "moral aid and active support" to help to resist the "forces of anarchy and revolution."

Governor Lewelling was found in his private office in consultation with Judge Webb, the attorney for the Populists, and Chairman Breidenthal, of the Populist state committee. The governor refused to discuss the situation, but Webb said the Populists would come out of the fight on top of the heap. When the Republicans took possession of the house they ejected the Populist sergeants-at-arms. They say they propose to hold possession, and have sent out for dinner. The governor has ordered out four companies of infantry and two batteries of artillery, and 25 men, chiefly farmers, have been taken to the arsenal, uniformed, armed and sent to the capitol grounds. Oakland company has also arrived and taken position in the grounds.

The Republicans have nailed, barred and propped every door leading to the hall. The Populists have decided to freeze the Republicans out. The janitor has shut off the steam from the hall. The Populists have also undertaken to starve out the Republicans. The men sent for lunch for them cannot get past the militia lines. The house is therefore in a state of siege.

A militia company has been stationed near the arsenal with guards posted. Two cannons have been run out of the arsenal, loaded with shot, and everything looks decidedly warlike. The militia have full control of the situation, and every move on the Populist house depends on the governor. Colonel Hughes of the Third regiment, Republican, has been relieved from duty because he refused to obey the adjutant general.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 15.—Bleeding Kansas nearly bled again today. Nothing but the wisest counsels of calmer leaders of the opposing parties prevented a serious conflict and the shedding of blood. Not since the anti-slavery and pro-slavery forces were arrayed in hostile attitude against one another has political excitement run so high as today, and not since those perilous times has the political situation come so near developing into a battle with arms.

The members of the Republican house, each carrying a revolver, forced their way through the Populist guard stationed in the corridor and the stairway leading to Representative Hall, fought their way inch by inch upstairs in a hand-to-hand contest with Populists, battered down the doors of the hall with sledge hammers, took possession of the hall and barricaded themselves within, and with a standing siege by the Populist government, supported by the entire military force of the state, who hope to starve the Republicans into unconditional surrender. Right here arises the probability of an armed conflict between the Republican guards and the State militia.

The Republican members kept the wires hot all day sending messages to constituents informing them of the desperate situation of affairs and call-

ing for Republican volunteers to come to Topeka at once and lend aid to the Republican house. Responses have been received from all over the state stating that volunteers have offered their services by hundreds and will arrive in Topeka by the first train.

At 10 o'clock tonight 500 troops are on guard around the building, while 500 are on their way from different parts of the state. Hundreds of Republican volunteers armed for battle are gathering from all parts of the state. The Populists have organized into provisional troops. The militia being Republican in sympathies, will probably not obey an order to shoot down political brethren, while the provisional companies composed of Populists, are prepared to go to almost any extreme to defeat the Republican plans and maintain the Populist position. No one dares predict what the morrow will bring forth. Few hope for a peaceful solution of the difficulty; many expect bloodshed and are holding their breath in anticipation.

At 6 o'clock this evening two Republican guards stationed in the corridor chanced to run across Assistant State Auditor Mackey, a Populist, and arrested him on a charge of having assaulted a Republican guard during the morning scrimmage. He was hustled into the hall and after a brief examination was confined as a prisoner in one of the cloak rooms under guard of the assistant sergeant-at-arms. Before long sounds of a scuffle were heard and Mackey plunged through the door with blood streaming down his face from a severe scalp wound which his jailer inflicted with a walking stick. Mackey said he attempted to open the door leading into the hall and was assaulted without further provocation. The guard says Mackey threatened him with a revolver and that he struck him in self-defense. Mackey was then allowed to go. He was not severely wounded.

At 10 o'clock tonight Governor Lewelling appeared at the door of the house and asked admittance. He was permitted to enter and as he made his appearance the members rose in respect. He made an impressive speech. The governor said he would consider no compromise and no appeal by the Republicans. If the Republicans would not surrender, then he would be forced to order the militia to drive them from the hall at the point of the bayonet. A voice from the seats asked: "Will you abide by the decision of the courts?" The governor declined to reply and left the hall.

Ex-Governor Osborne, a Republican, who accompanied the governor, said that he had come with the governor from a conference between a committee of citizens and the chief executive and was assured from the temper of the governor and associates that they would consent to no compromise. Continued resistance by Republicans, he said, would lead to bloodshed and the scenes of border wars would be repeated. Tomorrow would see a gathering in Topeka of hundreds of Republicans and Populists, and the intense feeling prevailing would lead to a conflict and blood would surely flow. He counselled moderation on the part of the Republicans.

Colonel Hughes, who is a member of the house, appeared before the house in uniform at 11:30 and informed the

members that as commander of the troops they had nothing to fear from him. He would sooner resign his command than carry out the order to eject Republicans in the house. He also said a majority of his command would withdraw from the militia with him if they were ordered to use force to drive forth the legally elected and legally organized house of representatives from the hall. He further intimated that orders to the guards so far as they related to the taking of provisions into the hall had been relaxed. Hardly had this been said when a string was dropped out of every window and in a shorter time than it can be told, baskets filled with substantial lunches were hoisted up and the Republicans broke their long fast.

#### THE FIRST CONFLICT.

The first conflict between soldiers and members of the Republican house took place late tonight in the corridor leading to the representative hall. Representatives Davis and Breidenthal, who had escaped to get a lunch, were challenged by the guards on their way back. Breidenthal drew a revolver and told the guard if he did not lower the bayonet he would blow his head off. The guard allowed him to pass.

TOPEKA, Kans., Feb. 16.—The city is black and blue today, black with people come to "see the fun," and blue with troops.

Every train arriving the past twelve hours brought troops and Republican and Populist volunteers, armed with all sorts of weapons, anxious to take a hand in the fight. Soldiers surround the capitol guards at every entrance, and prevent any one from entering without a pass from the governor, countersigned by the adjutant general. The members of the legislature are not better off in this respect than common folk. Mrs. Lease managed to get in, but Mr. Lease spent several hours trying to follow her without success.

The Populists kindled bonfires in the streets to warm themselves by. Battery A of Wichita with a Gatling gun and plenty of ammunition guards the main approach to the capitol; battery B of Topeka guards the arsenal. Business is depressed; men walk in groups; a single pedestrian is a rare sight. The hotel corridors swarm with men from all parts of the state, to be on hand in case of an emergency. The troops sympathize mostly with the Republicans; so, in spite of the adjutant general's order not to allow food to be taken into the capitol the soldiers conveniently fail to see the well filled baskets of provisions hauled up to Representative hall by means of ropes. The Wichita battery even went so far as to bring its Gatling gun on the ground unfit for use, one very essential part of its mechanism having been removed. The captain of the battery appeared greatly surprised when his attention was called to the fact, and called up his men one by one and questioned them about it. All denied any knowledge of the circumstance, and the piece still rows impotently at the supposedly invading Republicans.

The Populists planned to assault the Republican stronghold at 3 o'clock this morning, hoping to take them by surprise. Colonel Hughes learned of the plan and informed the Republicans