

ALARM IN THE DEMOCRATIC CAMP.

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to sell. Senator Ford will draft a bill to permit this.

Another bill to be introduced by Senator Ford will provide for the reduction of the estimated value of lands in the Mississippi bottoms. The lands are now assessed at about \$30 an acre, while the high lands in the vicinity are assessed at only \$12 an acre. The farmers in the bottoms also have to bear the burden of building levees along the river and think they should have some relief if the Constitution will permit it.

Representative Carson of Champaign will look after the appropriations necessary for the maintenance of the University of Illinois, located at Champaign. The new Board of Trustees, when appointed, will include nine Democrats and three Republicans. Mr. Carson says that it is the intention to ask for a larger appropriation this year, as many improvements are needed. The number of students attending makes it necessary to erect new buildings in order to properly accommodate them.

A bill will be introduced by Senator Seibert of the Forty-seventh District making the poll tax optional to people in each township in counties under township organization. As the poll tax now operates, a farmer who resides in an incorporated town is exempt from paying poll tax no matter how much real estate he may own. A bill similar to the Senator's proposed law was introduced in the Senate last session, but failed to reach the House on account of the lateness of the hour.

ALARM IN THE DEMOCRATIC CAMP.

Their Majority May Be Reduced or Wiped Out by Sickness.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 2. — Democratic members of the House were considerably alarmed today by a rumor that owing to sickness in their families several members-elect would possibly not be at their posts when the House was called to order at noon Wednesday. As they have out a majority of three they were fearful that the absence of these gentlemen would enable the Republicans, by quick work, to organize the House. Telegrams were at once sent to every member not already in the city urging the necessity of his presence here, at least until after an organization could be effected.

Representative Stringer of Logan is one of the many members who believe that the Sparrow law should be abolished, and a bill will be introduced by him at an early day repealing the law. Stringer was not elected on "a sparrow platform," he says, but he made a sacred promise to the citizens of Lincoln to do all in his power to repeal the law.

Senator Ford of Randolph County expects to submit two bills that will be of great interest to the southern part of the State. A couple of hundred years ago the French Government gave several thousand acres of land to the Village of Prairie du Rocher as commons. About thirty years ago a bill was passed by the Legislature allowing the village to lease the land, the revenue to be used for school purposes. The tenants of the land are now desirous of buying the property, and the village is anxious