

POSTMASTER IS SHORT

Prominent Editor and Politician Arrested on Charge of Embezzlement.

THE CASE APPEARS TO BE SERIOUS

Uncle Sam's Official at Seward Shy a Trifle Over Three Thousand Dollars—One of His Bondsmen Drops Dead When Informed of the Condition of Affairs in the Postoffice.

LINCOLN, Feb. 19.—Frank G. Simmons, for many years a prominent newspaper editor and politician and for the last two years postmaster at Seward, was placed under arrest on the charge of embezzlement of government funds. A complaint, charging him with converting to his own use funds of the United States to the amount of \$3,062.38, was filed this morning with United States Commissioner Dillingsley and a warrant for his arrest was at once issued. This warrant was placed in the hands of Deputy United States Marshal Moore, who brought Simmons to this city at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

Simmons was appointed postmaster at Seward in February, 1898. Previous to that time he had for years been the editor of the Seward Reporter. It is learned here that Simmons had been in financial trouble for some time and not long ago he came to Lincoln for the purpose of squaring up some old matters. Postoffice inspectors Sinclair and Swift have been at work on the case for several weeks and Wednesday Inspector Sinclair went to Seward and instituted a thorough investigation of Simmons' books. The investigation showed that a large shortage existed, both in the money order and in the postal fund, the latter representing the sales of stamps and the rentals of boxes. Sinclair at once confronted the postmaster and demanded an explanation, but Simmons could give none. He admitted that he had used the money, but asserted that he could make good the shortage if a little time were granted. He said he had used the money to pay off personal debts. The inspector laid the matter before the bondsmen of the postmaster and asked them to name some man whom they desired to take temporary charge of the office. David H. Figgard was appointed to take charge of the office, but he died from a sudden stroke of heart failure immediately after he left his home and John Woods, one of the bondsmen was selected in his place.

The shortage of Postmaster Simmons covers a considerable period. In the money order department it amounts to \$2,460.97, and in the postal fund to \$601.41.

No Chancellor Yet.

LINCOLN, Feb. 19.—The University Board of Regents adjourned to meet next April and there is every indication that a permanent chancellor will be chosen at that time to succeed Acting Chancellor Bessey, who desires to retire from the executive office of the institution and return to his former position at the head of the department of botany. It was the intention of the regents to make a selection at the meeting which adjourned but owing to the absence of two members of the board the matter was deferred until the next meeting. In his report to the board, Dr. Bessey requested the regents to appoint his successor as soon as possible, and there appears to be no disposition on the part of the board to delay action any longer than is absolutely necessary.

Wants Out of the Army.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 19.—Governor Poynter has been asked to make an attempt to secure the discharge of Benjamin Gomme of Eddyville, now serving with the British army in the Transvaal. Gomme is said to be a naturalized citizen of the United States. Those who are asking for his release assert that he was seized while in England and forced into the British military service. Not having his naturalization papers with him at the time, he could not prove that he was a citizen of the United States. This story is not believed at the state house, for the reason that there is no such thing as compulsory enlistment in England. Governor Poynter will refer the request to Congressman Neville, who will be asked to lay the case before the proper authorities in Washington.

Swindling Farmers.

PLATTSBROUGH, Neb., Feb. 19.—An agent for the Pierce Co-Operative Medical dispensary of Chicago, Ill., recently visited the farmers in this county and succeeded in persuading some of them to sign a paper which proved to be a note. Otto Jahn, living near Elmwood, was one of his victims. His note was sold to R. Adel McCurdy, who, through his attorney, J. L. Root, brought suit before Judge Archer to collect the note of \$150. Attorneys H. D. Travis of this city and William Deles Derner of Elmwood appeared for the defendant. After being out a few minutes the jury brought in a verdict for Jahn.

Soldier's Remains.

NELSON, Neb., Feb. 19.—The remains of Sergeant Charley Mellick of company H, First Nebraska, who was killed in battle at Manila, April 23, reached here last week. The body will lie in state until that of Otto Kustenberg, which is now on the way, arrives, when a double funeral will be held.

Smallpox Abroad.

PAWNEE CITY, Neb., Feb. 19.—The smallpox plague in Pawnee county has not yet been completely stamped out. One new case was reported from Du Bois and two from Bookwalter. The Du Bois patient is a young child of the late Dr. McColm, who died of the disease. The name of only one of the stricken persons at Bookwalter was reported to the authorities—C. C. Mardis, a former grain dealer of that place. The impression has been circulated that the infection has broken out in Pawnee City, but is untrue.

INQUEST OVER HOWE'S BODY.

Despondency Causes a Telegraph Operator to Take His Life.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 17.—An inquest was held here over the remains of Anderson C. Howe the young telegraph operator who committed suicide in the office of the Western Union in this city. Not a cent of money was found on his person and it is supposed that his act was induced by the despondency resulting from the loss of his situation in Topeka and the barren prospect of securing another in the near future.

J. H. Lee an operator in the office of a local bucket shop, worked for several years with young Howe in Topeka, Kan. He said the young man was considered a steady, reliable fellow and one of the best men in the employ of the company. Some eighteen months ago he was induced to resign his position and "hobo" to New York city. He soon tired of this life and returned within a year and was given his old position. Two weeks ago the company found it necessary to reduce its operating force in Topeka and as Howe was the last man employed he was the unfortunate one to be dropped from the pay roll.

From Topeka he went to Kansas City, sold his typewriter, checked his baggage through to New York and prepared to follow it immediately. In some manner as yet unexplained he lost all his money. He took a train and came to Lincoln. He applied for a position at the local office of the Western Union, presenting the highest recommendations, but his assistance was not needed. He found his former friend, Lee, who took him to breakfast. He met other friends in the city during the day, but to none of them did he confide his straitened financial condition. He even intimated that he had money, expressing his intention of going to Omaha in search of employment.

Farmer's Institute at Friend.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE at Friend, Ia., Feb. 16.—A very interesting series of farmers' institutes closed at this place, during which Professor Hunter delivered an address on "Insect Pests," E. Whitcomb on "Foul Brood and Its Treatment," P. J. Gessard on "The Brood Sow—How to Select and Care for Her Brood," Rev. L. P. Luden on "Poultry," Dr. J. V. Bightol on "Raising the Boy," E. F. Stephens of Crete on "Horticulture," Mrs. C. A. Blanchard on "Poultry on the Farm," J. H. Whitton on "Dairying," and C. A. Whitton on "How to Make the Farm Pay." Mrs. J. D. Pope, Miss Sams, Miss Farrenburg and the young ladies' and young gents' quartets furnished excellent music for all the sessions.

Granted a Change of Venue.

KEARNEY, Neb., Feb. 17.—Judge Homer Sullivan refused the application for a continuance, but granted a change of venue for Frank L. Dinsmore, the alleged murderer of Mrs. Dinsmore and Fred Laue, from Buffalo to Dawson county on the ground that the prejudice against him in this county is of such a nature that he could not get a fair trial. Court convenes in Dawson county March 5.

Preparing for Tournament.

YORK, Neb., Feb. 17.—At a meeting of the York fire department J. W. Moist, J. V. Hyder, C. N. Carpenter, Charles Rosenlot, L. R. Carey and W. D. Fisher were elected a committee to make arrangements for a state firemen's tournament to be held in York in July. The mayor of York has called a citizens' meeting for Friday night to assist in the work of the committee.

Saw Cuts Off Arm.

PAWNEE CITY, Neb., Feb. 16.—Wesley Walker, engineer, in the city feed and sawmill here, fell against a rotary saw and had his left arm severed at the wrist. He was assisting the sawyers with a heavy log at the sawing bench and accidentally slipped. Walker recently came here from Sabatha, Kan., and had been working at the mill but a couple of days. He has a family.

Child Fatally Scalded.

TECUMSEH, Neb., Feb. 16.—Helen Kazda, the 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kazda, was scalded to death yesterday. She was playing about the kitchen stove, when an older girl attempted to remove a pan of boiling water therefrom. The water was spilled, striking the child squarely in the breast. She was terribly burned and lived but a few hours.

Burglar's Outfit Found.

AINSWORTH, Neb., Feb. 16.—A valise containing an entire burglar's outfit was found in the attic of a school house south of this town. There was every conceivable article necessary for cracking a safe, drills, files, sticks of dynamite, fuses, revolvers, cartridges, etc. The stuff has been taken possession of by the sheriff. No clue to the owners is at hand.

Insane Man Shoots a Girl.

AXTELL, Neb., Feb. 17.—Oscar Nelson, a farm hand, insane from an unknown cause, discharged the contents of a shotgun at the daughter of his employer, ran to his room and shot and killed himself. The attempted murder and suicide occurred four miles south of here. The girl is painfully, though not seriously wounded.

Recovers His Stolen Team.

BEATRICE, Neb., Feb. 17.—A man named Kennedy of Ceresco Neb., was in the city enroute home from Kansas, where he had gone to secure a team of horses which were recently stolen from him and which were located at Blue Rapids. A man named Gray was captured in possession of the team, but he made his escape, after shooting a deputy sheriff and has not been recaptured. It is said that Gray was a partner of the fellow named Hawkins who was killed at Clay Center, Neb.

1901 IN THIS STATE

Likely to Be a Record-Breaker in Railroad Building.

SOME REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT

Old Lines Will Make Extensions and Eastern Capitalists Are Being Interested in Plans for a Number of New Roads—The Nebraska and Gulf Lines.

ATKINSON, Neb., Feb. 15.—If the present appearances are to be regarded as any indications, it is probable that the first year of the twentieth century will be a record-breaker in the matter of railroad building in the west, particularly in northwestern Nebraska. In the first place, the indications point to the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad carrying through its long-promised extension from Casper. In fact it seems that it will be forced to do so to protect what it regards as its legitimate territory from the encroachments of the Burlington & Missouri River Road, which is rumored to be preparing to build from Gering, in Scotts Bluffs county, west to connect with the Cheyenne & Northern, of which it is said to have secured the control. This will take the Burlington & Missouri into the territory of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley road at Orion Junction, with facilities for further encroachments upon its territory. Another matter of interest to this section of the country is the present activity of the representatives of J. J. Hill, the present owner of the Sioux City & O'Neill Short Line and the prospects of a speedy extension of that road to Alliance, Neb. It is thought there is an understanding between the management of the Great Northern and the Burlington & Missouri roads in this matter and that this stretch of road is being constructed in the interest of each of those lines. It will be a very marked advantage to both roads and an immense benefit to this section of Nebraska.

A third enterprise that is attracting some attention is the Nebraska & Gulf, organized by Judge Cessne, Charles Dietrich, W. H. Lanning and other capitalists of Hastings, Neb. There is considerable interest being felt in this line from the fact that it will shorten the distance to the seaboard by several hundred miles and render the cost of transportation to New York about half what it is now.

The Nebraska & Gulf people now have a corps of men in Boyd county seeking an available route and trying to get options for a right of way. They are presumably seeking to reach the large cattle ranges in the White river country. But it is not at all probable that this part of their road will ever be built, for the reason that it is said by engineers familiar with the country to be an impracticable route because of the conditions which obtain in that section. In the first place the condition of the banks of the Niobrara river are such that it can be bridged at but two places. The only points where the conditions are favorable to bridging are at the Whiting bridge, north of O'Neill, and at the point where the Atkinson & Northern crosses the Niobrara. It is understood that this branch of the Nebraska & Gulf road has not got beyond the paper stage, and the probabilities are that it never will.

Nebraska Corn at Paris.

OMAHA, Feb. 15.—At its meeting yesterday the Commercial club executive committee decided to push the claims of Mrs. Harriett A. MacMurphy to a position in the corn kitchen of the national exhibit at the Paris exposition. Mrs. MacMurphy received the endorsement of the club for such a position some time ago and yesterday she explained to the executive committee that the small appropriation—\$10,000—set aside for the corn kitchen has been placed in control of the Maize Propaganda, which has headquarters at Chicago, and that Iowa and Illinois have the inside track in its expenditure, so that if Nebraska secures representation her claims will have to be vigorously pushed. It is proposed to increase the appropriation for the exploitation of the uses of corn and its products.

Secretary Utt was directed to take the matter up with Nebraska's senators and congressmen in an endeavor to have Nebraska represented by Mrs. MacMurphy, who has made a study of the work for several years. A letter from Senator Thurston confirmed what Mrs. MacMurphy said concerning the interest taken by Illinois and Iowa in the manifestation of the uses of corn and the fact that those states have the inside track in the absorption of the appropriation.

Miles Will Case Closed.

FALLS CITY, Neb., Feb. 15.—The Miles will case closed yesterday. John L. Webster, for the plaintiff, spoke in rebuttal, bringing the case to a close in a powerful manner. Judge Thompson has taken the case under advisement. The citizens have taken great interest in this case and are now waiting with great impatience to learn the final outcome. After the closing of this case Judge Stull took the bench and began the equity cases.

Bishop Warren at Grand Island.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Feb. 15.—Trinity Methodist Episcopal church raised over \$4,000 Sunday to liquidate an old debt and enough money to put certain repairs on the church. The largest amount was given by one of the largest audiences that perhaps has ever assembled in any church in the city. He showed masterly skill in the management of the finances. Dr. Hodgetts preached in the evening, after which the bishop made a most interesting address and took an additional subscription for the painting of the church.

TAYLOR TAKES INITIATIVE.

Inaugurates Legal Measures Against Beckham and Castleman.

Suit was filed in the circuit court at Louisville, Ky., by counsel for Governor Taylor seeking to restrain J. C. W. Beckham from acting as governor and General John B. Castleman from attempting to discharge the duties of adjutant general. Summons were served on the defendants.

The suit will be allotted to one of the circuit judges by a drawing. This drawing may not be held for several days. The suit is brought by Governor Taylor for himself individually and as governor of Kentucky.

At Frankfort, Ky., when informed that Judge Taft had refused jurisdiction, Governor Taylor made the following signed statement:

"The decision of Judge Taft, holding that his court has no jurisdiction in the case of the minor state officials, does not affect the merits of the case. He does not determine that the petitioners had no merits in their cases, but only that his court could not take jurisdiction and right the wrong. If he had held that he had jurisdiction it would have all been over, for the outrages were so glaring that the republicans would have won hands down. The decision does not in the least affect my case."

The suit of Beckham against Taylor for the possession of the office of governor was filed in the circuit court at Frankfort. Up to a late hour the sheriff had not succeeded in serving notice on Governor Taylor and the chances of his doing so did not seem bright, as all visitors to the office of the governor, or to the gubernatorial mansion, were compelled to run a gauntlet of guards who were on the lookout for gentlemen with suspicious papers. The petition in the suit holds that W. S. Taylor is not the governor of the state and that with an armed force he holds possession of the executive building. It alleges that he is drawing money without authority of law from the state treasury, pardoning convicts and doing other things that are detrimental to the welfare of the state.

POSTAL SERVICE ON THE INCREASE

Plan to Have as Few American Clerks as Possible.

The director general of posts of the Philippine islands has transmitted to the Postoffice department a copy of a letter written by him to General Otis, in which is outlined a plan for the extension of the postal service in the islands. His plan contemplates that the army shall take charge of the service of points where it is impracticable to employ clerks. Offices in charge of American clerks are contemplated at all places where there is a large number of people and considerable tributary territory.

At points where troops are stationed the commanding officer will be asked to take charge of stamps and other postal supplies and to detail for this postal duty a soldier incapacitated for field services. It is desired to have as few American clerks as possible on account of the expense in salaries, natives being willing to work much cheaper. The revenues from the island and Negroes for ten months have not been sufficient to pay the salary of a superintendent for two months and since the withdrawal of the greater portion of the troops from San Fernando the revenues have amounted to scarcely \$50 a month, about one-third the salary of a superintendent.

PROTEST AGAINST THE WAR.

Liberals Meet at a London Hotel and Adopt Resolutions.

Supporters of the liberal party, to the number of 300 or 400, held a private meeting at the Westminster Palace hotel, London, to protest against the government's war policy. Sir Wilfred Lawson, M. P., David Lloyd-George, M. P., and Conrwight Schreyner, the husband of Olive Schreyner, the novelist, were among those present. The resolutions adopted denounced the war as a "crime and a blunder," committed at the instigation of irresponsible capitalists; demanded the publication of the full correspondence regarding the increasing armaments; reaffirmed the liberals' gratitude to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, John Morley and James Bryce, and decided to open a permanent fund to carry on a vigorous political propaganda for the principles thus enunciated.

KYLE IN REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.

Committee to Arrange Business for Remainder of Session.

The republican caucus of the senate on the 15th authorized its chairman, Senator Allison, to appoint a committee to arrange the order of business for the remainder of the session, but the selection was not announced. Senator Cullom gave notice to the caucus that he would call up his bill providing a form of government for the Hawaiian islands and no disposition was manifested to antagonize him in this purpose.

The caucus also discussed the question of the division of the minor patronages of the senate, but adjourned before concluding this portion of its work.

Senator Kyle of South Dakota attended and participated in the proceedings of the caucus for the first time.

QUITS TO MEET IN OMAHA.

Western League Schedule Committee to Finish Work There.

The schedule committee of the new Western League of Baseball Clubs in session at Des Moines, adjourned, to meet later on call of the chairman at Omaha, without having perfected a schedule. Several drafts of schedule were under consideration. It was voted to hold the next annual meeting at Denver in February, 1901. Five years instead of three year franchises were made the rule of the association.

WITH HIS OWN MONEY.

The Clark Case Being Considered by the Committee on Elections.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—When the senate committee on elections resumed its consideration of the Clark case today J. S. McNeill of Arizona, who was on the stand when the committee adjourned yesterday, was recalled. He was questioned closely by ex-Senator Edmunds concerning the impression letter book, from which he cut the copy of his letter to T. J. Johns of Lewistown. Mr. Neill said that he had cut the letter out of the book on Saturday last and Monday had expressed it to Helena. Mr. Edmunds commented on the fact that the book had been sent back on the very day that Mr. Neill was to go on the stand as significant. Mr. Neill said he would intercept the book and bring it back, but that he would not agree that the entire book should undergo inspection.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr. Campbell.

"Did you do any work for Mr. Clark during the last senatorial campaign in Montana?"

"I did all I could in my newspaper and otherwise in a legitimate way."

"Did you spend any money in either the legislative campaign or the senatorial contest, before the legislature?"

"Yes, but it was my own."

"Did you spend any except your own?"

"I did not."

"Didn't you leave some money in Ferguson county?"

"I did leave some money there for Dave Hillger and Mr. Williams, but it was given me by A. J. Davidson and I was little more than a messenger in the transaction."

"Changing the form of the question, how much money did you handle in the senatorial contest that was not your own?"

"I did not handle any money during the senatorial fight except such as one would naturally spend—not to exceed in the aggregate, \$1,000."

"Did you spend no money except in Ferguson county?"

"I cannot say precisely as to that. Those were exciting times. I was in the thick of the fray and pre-occupied."

Mr. Neill spoke of the various places used as headquarters during the senatorial contest, but he said he had not been at the quarters at the Helena hotel often, as Mr. Wellcome was there and he and Wellcome were not on good terms. Nevertheless he had taken Mr. Wellcome there and introduced him to Wellcome.

The witness said he had seen Senator Clark frequently during the campaign and that at 4 o'clock on the day of the Whitestone exposure he had met several of Mr. Clark's friends at the latter's rooms. This delegation consisted of himself, Governor Hauser, Mr. Davidson, Walter Cooper, State Senator Hoffman and several other whose names he could not recall.

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