

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

NEBRASKA SCHOOL MATTERS.

County Superintendents Addressed by Mr. Fowler.

At the state teachers' meeting in Omaha State Superintendent Fowler spoke to county superintendents in part, as follows:

Nebraska occupies an unrivaled position in having the lowest per cent of illiteracy of all the states in the union. Nowhere has the value of a common school education been more generally and universally acknowledged than here, nor has the free secondary and higher education in the state been altogether neglected.

The constitution of Nebraska, adopted in 1875, declared that all moneys arising from the sale or leasing of sections No. 16 to 36 in each township in this state should be perpetual funds for common school purposes, of which the annual interest or income only can be appropriated; and the interest on these school lands sold and leased, together with that or warrants, county bonds and school district bonds, certain fees and licenses, and the state school tax of 1 1/2 mills or less upon the dollar of assessed valuation of all taxable property in the state, provides a sum in excess of \$700,000 apportioned annually to all the common school districts of the state. This amount will increase from year to year rather than diminish. Local school districts may tax themselves not to exceed 25 mills on the dollar of assessed valuation. All fines, penalties and license moneys are appropriated exclusively to the use and support of the common schools in the respective subdivisions where they may accrue.

The constitution also states that the legislature shall provide for the free instruction in the common schools of all persons between the ages of 5 and 21 years. Free education, including free textbooks and supplies, is furnished in all school districts in the state. School government, organization and management in Nebraska is almost purely local, each one of the 6,667 districts being responsible for its own school. Each district provides a full course of instruction in all of the eight grades or years of work below the ordinary high school, and many of them furnish graduate certificates upon the completion of this work. The course includes reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, physiology, etc. In some of the larger cities of the state kindergartens have been established.

When a school district has a population of 150 or more children of school age, it may organize as a high school district and furnish free high school privileges to all its pupils who complete the eighth grades of work below the high school.

We have in Nebraska eighty-five villages maintaining a High school course of one year, or a total of nine grades of work; there are 175 villages with High school courses of two years; 101 villages or cities with High school courses three years in length, and eighty-four cities in the state maintaining a full four years' High school course sometimes differentiated into classical, scientific, English and commercial courses, above the eighth grades of common school work. Above these we have as a superstructure the magnificent University of Nebraska, with its faculty of 200 and an attendance of more than 2,500. The university has a heavy endowment from lands donated to the state by the United States, and is supported by the proceeds of investment of a permanent fund, by other incomes and by a tax of 1 mill upon the dollar of assessed valuation of the state.

During the last school year (1903-1904) there were enrolled in the schools of Nebraska 280,000 children; the state had 6,767 school houses, of which thirty-five were stone, 323 brick, 105 log, 273 sod, and the rest wood or frame buildings. The number of school houses in the state in 1890 was nearly 800, but it has steadily decreased since that time, while the number of brick buildings rapidly increases. The value of school district property in the state is estimated at \$11,000,000; the total indebtedness of all districts at \$2,285,000, and the total annual expenditures at \$4,900,000. Nebraska employs annually 9,700 teachers, including 3,250 in graded schools.

Krens Gives Bond. LINCOLN—William Krens of Custer county gave bond for \$1,500, and was released pending the final decision upon his case. In the Custer county district court he was sentenced to two years in the state penitentiary for burning a stack of grain.

ANSLEY—More prairie chickens were killed in October and November this year in the neighborhood of Ansley than ever before, but the pot hunter who kills birds in the summer has been stopped, and the result is that the birds are both plentiful and tame.

Depositors Get 39 Per Cent. LINCOLN—Receiver William C. May has filed with Secretary Roys of the state banking board his final report of the affairs of the defunct People's State bank of Gothenburg, which failed in 1901. The depositors have received a payment of 39 per cent and the receiver has been discharged.

The Institute for the Feeble Minded at Beatrice fittingly observed Christmas.

NEBRASKA BRIEFS.

Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Peterson of Polk county last week celebrated their golden wedding.

At a regular meeting of the Fremont Turnverein it was voted to send a team to compete at the national turn fest, which meets next year at Indianapolis.

The home of P. B. Neff, an implement dealer in Broomfield, was entered by burglars a few nights ago and robbed of \$20, several rings and other pieces of jewelry.

While oiling an engine at the electric power house at Beatrice Engineer Peter Drouland got his hand too near the machine and the index finger of his left hand was torn off.

Invitations have been issued at Plattsmouth announcing the forthcoming marriage of F. C. Kingsbury of Arizona and Miss Para Love of Fremont, which will occur January 4.

Rosecoe Pound will resign his position as dean of the law school at the State University to enter practice, having formed a law partnership with Frank M. Hall and Frank H. Woods.

The body of Howard Penn who killed himself at York in a fit of despondency arrived in Broken Bow from that place and was taken to the residence in Former Sheriff Armstrong.

About 11 o'clock in the forenoon one of the inmates in the open ward at the asylum at Hastings escaped, coming toward Hastings. He is described as being about 28 years old, weight 150, dark mustache.

The city council of Grand Island has passed on its first reading an ordinance regulating the running of automobiles, limiting the speed to five miles an hour in the business district of the city and twelve miles an hour in all other districts.

The other night young George Coll of Dawes county walked from the penitentiary to the trolley car station at Lancaster a free man, beneficiary of one of Governor Mickey's Christmas commutations. Coll was convicted five years ago of murdering a sheepman named Ryan, with whom he and his father, a cattleman, had had trouble over the range.

Governor Mickey has assured Superintendent Greene of the Lincoln Hospital for the Insane that there is absolutely no need for any investigation into the affairs of that institution. The official called at the executive department for a conference and was assured that the governor had perfect confidence in him and the integrity of his management.

Phoenix, (Ariz.) dispatch: Sheriff Hall of Holt county, Neb., arrived with a requisition for Bernard W. McGreevy, absconding president of the Elkhorn Valley bank of O'Neill, Neb. The sheriff said he would not leave before Monday and perhaps not then. He is impressed with the story that Cashier Patrick Hagerty is in hiding here and hopes to capture him.

The committee that has begged the Burlington Railroad company for a new depot at York in the place of the barn-like structure now used by the company there hope that York will have a New Year's present in the way of a notice from the company that they will build a much needed depot at York that will be in keeping with the rapid growth and the size of the place.

Each prisoner in the penitentiary was given a Christmas present. The gift was of modest proportions, consisting of a large bag of candy, made in the prison kitchen, but each man received little trinkets from friends and relatives at home. Little mementoes of home life and jars of jam and jelly, with other delicacies, were received by many of the men.

The annual meeting of the Gage county poultry and pet stock show will be held in the opera house at Blue Springs January 3 and 4.

December will be a good month from the standpoint of the state penitentiary in that the census will be increased there by twenty-nine.

A circular letter will be sent out to county treasurers by State Treasurer Mortensen asking them to begin the year properly by promptly remitting state taxes to the treasury on Monday or Tuesday. Many county treasurers are taking advantage of the renewed offer of the Burlington and the Union Pacific to pay a part of their taxes, pending the decision on the application for injunction.

After having been mourned as a dead man for the past seventeen years John Marquardt has turned up at Harrisburg, Ore., alive and a busy man. Almost a score of years ago he left Norfolk and two years later his mother and brothers gave him up as dead. Even the date of his death had been fixed, services held and each anniversary help apart because of the funeral tone it bore. A letter received last week came as a joyful greeting.

In the case of the Missouri Pacific Railway company against Cass county Judge Jessen found for the plaintiff, fixing the amount of damage in the sum of 1 cent. The company sued for \$1,000 damage.

Gust Jones, a stranger in Cuming county, was committed to jail on a charge of stealing a team of horses the property of James Tighe, living near Bancroft. The prisoner was caught with the team in his possession and was brought before Justice McDermott and was bound over to the district court in default of bail.

THE NEW STATES

ADMISSION OF FOUR TERRITORIES NOT CERTAIN.

SOME DEMOCRATS ARE OPPOSED

It Is Likely That There Will Be Considerable Filibustering—Republicans Not Anxious as the Matter Can Go Over to Next Session.

WASHINGTON—In all probability there will not be two stars added to the flag at this session of congress. While there are some democrats who are disposed to allow the republicans to legislate as they please on all except great fundamental questions, there are others who will not consent to the admission of states doubled up, as proposed in the bill passed last session by the house and now pending in the senate. Of course, it is well understood that it will be an easy thing to defeat the statehood bill. Only a slight filibuster is necessary, or perhaps a notice to the republican majority that the bill is unsatisfactory would be sufficient. The republicans are not at all anxious. They are willing the present bill should pass, but if the democrats want to defeat it they will not complain.

Senator Du Bois of Idaho is a leader of the opposition to the bill in its present form. He recalls that when he was struggling to have the territory of Idaho admitted as a state there was a great deal of opposition to the anti-Mormon test oath, which he insisted should be incorporated in the constitution. Du Bois took the ground then that congress had no right to bring a territory into the union against the will of the people of the territory. He said then that Idaho would prefer to remain out rather than be deprived of the test oath. "Now," said Mr. Du Bois, "the people of Arizona, with few exceptions, and a majority of the people of New Mexico prefer to remain as territories rather than to be admitted as one state."

"I think their wishes should be respected. What ought to be done now is to admit Oklahoma, not coupled Indian territory, but according to the present boundaries. There would be nothing favoring the democrats in that, for Oklahoma is as likely to be republican as democratic, and, in fact, it is the one territory where the republicans are strongest. But aside from all political consideration, the rights of the people of the territories should be respected."

Speaking of the statehood bill, Senator Beveridge, chairman of the committee on territories, remarked the other day that had Senator Quay lived the measure would have been put in his charge while being considered in the senate. Perhaps no one knew whether Senator Quay would have accepted the doubling up of the territories. Four years ago he fought for nearly three months to secure separate statehood for three territories, leaving out Indian territory. When the republicans doubled up the territories in the last session, with a view of making two states of the four, there was no sign from the silent Pennsylvania senator as to whether that kind of a proposition suited him or not. He was intensely interested when the fight was on before. He devoted more time to senatorial work than he had ever given before in a winter. But after the bill was defeated and when a new scheme was tried he never seemed to show the same interest. No one knows what he would have done if he had lived.

ADAMS WANTS INVESTIGATION.

Governor-Elect of Colorado Files Petition in Supreme Court.

DENVER—Attorneys Charles S. Thomas and Samuel W. Helford filed a petition in the supreme court Wednesday on behalf of Alva Adams, the democratic governor-elect, asking that either the court or a commission to be appointed by the court shall open all of the 204 ballot boxes used in Denver at the late election and make a thorough examination of their contents. The court decided to hear arguments on the petition later in the day.

"I have no question about my election by substantially the majority represented on the face of the returns," said Governor Adams. "I believe if the frauds in outside counties could be unearthed, my honest majority would amount to 20,000. But I want no tainted seat. It is of far greater importance that the extensive election frauds should be unearthed and punished than that I or any other particular individual should be sworn in as governor. I don't know who committed the alleged frauds in Denver. I know nearly thirty men are in jail, ostensibly for contempt of court, but really charged with election crimes. If they are of the character represented, I feel assured that there are men at liberty far more deserving of jail than those who are incarcerated."

Has Not Resigned, But Will.

LONDON—While numerous semi-official statements have been heard that Ambassador Choate is about to retire from diplomatic life, it can be stated that Mr. Choate has not sent his resignation nor any communication on the subject to President Roosevelt or the state department; nor has he received any inquiry, either from the president or Secretary Hay, concerning his future plans. It can be said, however, that it is Choate's intention to tender his resignation soon after inauguration.

MAJORITY IS DIVIDED.

Colorado Republicans Not Agreed Upon Plan to Reseat Peabody.

DENVER—Very few members of the legislature have yet arrived in the city and whether the plans of William C. Evans and other republican leaders to reseat Governor James Peabody will be advised by a majority of the republican members is still in doubt. The republicans can carry any measure on which they are agreed. There are at least half a dozen candidates for the speakership.

Some republican members known as followers of former United States Senator Edward O. Wolcott have decided that while they do not contemplate a union with the democrats under any consideration, they will oppose vigorously any plan for counting out Adams. The Wolcott republicans say they will go into a party caucus and will agree to abide by the decision of the caucus up to a point where it conflicts with their conscience. They insist that they have always strictly observed party regularity, but when a course is commended that is morally wrong they will not follow it and they will not consider their decision in that regard as "irregular." The plan to seat Governor Peabody, some of them declared, is wrong and no caucus action will bring them to support such action.

The canvass of the votes for state officers is made by the legislature and is not subject to review in the courts.

LEGISLATION FOR CANAL.

Members of Congressional Committee Consider Question.

WASHINGTON—Members of the congressional committee which will formulate the isthmian canal legislation have been considering the various questions relating to the regulation of the canal zone. A bill for the purpose passed the senate last session, but was rejected by the house, and a measure finally was agreed upon, placing the whole government of the zone in the power of the president until the end of the present session of congress. Before the close of this congress it will be necessary to renew that power for a term of years, or to enact a new law. Opinion differs as to the best method of handling the subject, although it is believed that a strong government will be necessary in order to provide for the care and health of the men engaged in canal work. It is expected that Representative Mann (Ill.) will introduce a bill relating to canal work soon after congress reconvenes.

REPORT FROM OKU'S ARMY.

Soldiers on Both Sides Still Lying in the Trenches.

General Oku's Headquarters, via Fusan—No change has taken place at the front of the Second army. The Russians continue a daily bombardment, firing at random and resulting in few casualties. The Japanese soldiers picked up fifteen centimetre shrapnel cases and with them made charcoal burners to heat the bomb place between patrols, the Russians always retiring. Both sides seem satisfied to remain in the trenches.

Lieutenant General Sir William Nicholson, director-general of military intelligence of the British was office, who was attached to the Japanese army, left here yesterday on his way to England.

Steal Court House Also.

ST. PAUL, Minn.—A special to the Dispatch from Aberdeen, S. D., says: The crowd of men who went from Selby to Bangor and carried off by force the county records in the court house and then left word that they would return for the court house itself, kept their promise. The building has been torn down and piled on wagons, and is being hauled to Selby to be rebuilt there. Although the action of the Selby men has aroused much bitter feeling, Bangor residents made no resistance.

WARSHIPS UNDER ORDERS.

China Will Try to Hold Russian War Vessels in Port.

SHANGHAI—The total has issued strict orders to the commanders of the Chinese warships in the harbors of Woosung and Shanghai to prevent any attempt to escape by the Russian war vessels, the cruiser Askold and the torpedo boat destroyer Grozovoi.

More Chinese cruisers are on the way to Shanghai.

The Askold and the Grozovoi succeeded in reaching Shanghai after the battle between the Russian and Japanese fleets off Port Arthur August 10, and since that time their officers and crew have been interned at Shanghai.

A rumor from Shanghai reached London December 9 that the Askold was coaling and replacing its machinery preparatory to an effort to escape and join the Russian second Pacific squadron.

American Girl Weds Title.

WASHINGTON—Miss Marguerite Hyde ("Daisy") Leiter, the youngest daughter of the late Levi Z. Leiter and Mrs. Mary T. Carver-Leiter of Chicago, was married at noon on Christmas day to Henry Molyneux Paget Howard, the nineteenth earl of Suffolk and Berkshire. The ceremony occurred in the Leiter residence in this city, the Rev. Roland Cotton Smith, rector of St. John's Episcopal church, officiating. Only a family party witnessed the service. The bride was escorted by her brother.

CAN HOLD ARTHUR

RUSSIAN ARMY HAS OVER TWO MONTHS' PROVISIONS.

THE JAPS MOUNT MORE CANNON

Confirmation of the Report That Gen. Kondrahenko Has Been Killed—The Work of Dynamiting and Paralyzing Continues.

TOKIO—The Japanese occupied the entire fort on Riblung mountain at 7:30 o'clock Wednesday.

Trustworthy advices from Port Arthur confirm the report that General Kondrahenko has been killed and that General Stoessel has been injured by falling from his horse. General Smiloff is also reported wounded.

The advices further say that the stern of the battleship Sevastopol has sunk in shallow water. Its bow is damaged in two places and the steering room gear is also damaged.

The garrison is reported to be confident in the belief that relief will arrive before March 1. Despite its heavy losses November 26 and subsequently the garrison is said to be cheerful and resolved to continue the struggle as long as a single soldier remains. The army claims to have sufficient provisions to last until February. The navy possesses about one month's stores. The price of food in the beleaguered fortress is high. Beef is 1 1/2 roubles per pound, horse meat 6 copeks, turkeys 150 roubles each, eggs 160 roubles per hundred. But a few junks bearing supplies reached the garrison the past month.

It is expected that the capture of the heights of Pigeon bay will further curtail the landing of supplies. The emperor today received in audience and decorated Captain Zurbonon of the steamer Willehad, which had brought home the Japanese refugees from Russia.

The Japanese dynamiting and paralyzing against the eastern section of the main circle of forts around Port Arthur is progressing favorably. The right wing of the besiegers continues a heavy and effective shelling of the new town preparatory to operations which are nearing completion. It is probable that the next attack will be simultaneously directed against the east and west forces of the fortress in an endeavor to divide and weaken the resistance of the defenders.

The New Year season has begun and all Japan is enjoying a holiday, consequently Togo's journey from Kure to Tokio will be a continuous popular ovation.

WRIGHT TELLS OF UPRISING.

Governor of Philippines Reports on Fighting by Palajanes.

WASHINGTON—Secretary Taft received a cablegram message from Governor Wright at Manila in response to his inquiry in regard to the recent uprising of the Palajanes, Dolores, Samar, Governor Wright's message is as follows:

MANILA, Dec. 26, 1904.—Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.—With reference to your telegram of 21st last, I regret to say that General Corbin's report of attack on and loss of detachments of scouts at Oras and Dolores is correct. Palajanes have of late left west and north sides of Samar and became active on east coast, which is practically without harbor and very difficult of access during prevalence of the existing monsoon. Orders were given some time since to strengthen all detachments on the east coast, but unfortunately this was delayed by wreck and loss of coast guard boat carrying a hundred or more of the constabulary. The men were saved but the delay in sending another coast guard boat to the rescue resulted in leaving the small detachments at Oras and Dolores isolated and the consequent loss. All east coast stations have been heavily reinforced and we are still sending men in by my direction. General Allen, chief of the constabulary, left here (Manila) two weeks since to take personal charge of affairs in Samar. I am still reinforcing him with constabulary and am consulting with General Corbin, who, if necessary, will aid us with troops. WRIGHT.

THEY MUST NEVER RETREAT

Kuropatkin Doesn't Want His Men on the Run Again.

MUKDEN—General Kuropatkin, addressing his troops, said: "You must never allow yourselves to retreat. Even in the case of the smallest detachment having once formed a plan it must be carried out to the end."

A Japanese battery opened fire December 24 in Shanlinpu and two men were wounded by shells. A Japanese column advanced, but was soon driven back by the Russian fire.

The general situation is quiet, though Chinese report that the Japanese are strengthening their left flank as though in contemplation of a turning movement. On the other hand the Japanese in many places apparently are building winter quarters.

To Spend \$30,000,000.

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Record-Herald says: The Pennsylvania Railroad company is prepared to spend \$20,000,000 in the construction of a new railroad station in Chicago, \$20,000,000 of this sum to be spent in acquiring land adjoining the present Union depot and \$10,000,000 to be spent in buildings. Plans and specifications for a most elaborate group of structures devoted to railway purposes have already been completed. The site of the new terminal will occupy seven square blocks.

News in Brief.

Herbert Simmons, a negro, was lynched at Neal, Ga., for the killing of J. A. Park, a white man.

The Japanese government has agreed to negotiate an arbitration treaty with the United States.

The Chicago Subway company prepares to expend \$15,000,000 in local improvements in the near future.

The retirement of Rear Admiral Silar Terry resulted in the promotion of Captain Joseph E. Craig to be rear admiral.

Announcement was made at the White house of the names for battles on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts.

If the duty is acceptable to him Rear Admiral Lambert will probably be appointed president of the lighthouse board.

Santiago Simonet of Utuado, Porto Rico, a deputy collector of internal revenue for the district of Arecibo, is missing.

East Boston has celebrated the official opening of the new tunnel under Boston harbor uniting the city proper and East Boston.

Two men and two horses were drowned and frozen at a deep pool at the old crossing of Piney Fork creek near Dillonvale, O.

Advices received at Esquimalt from the British admiralty state that the proposed abandonment of Esquimalt by the navy will be reconsidered.

The Neue Freie Presse says Premier von Koeber at an audience of Emperor Francis Joseph tendered his resignation on the ground of ill health.

At Mobile James Robinson was sent to jail for thirty days for an assault. The offense for which he was convicted was kissing a young lady against her will.

The Echo de Paris learns that Admiral Kaznakoff received a cipher dispatch from Grand Duke Alexis informing him that the emperor wishes to confer with him concerning the North sea affair.

Attorney General Moody filed a petition in St. Paul, Minn., alleging illegal combination of twenty-five concerns, with the general Paper company as sales agent, and asks for an injunction.

Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, who has been selected as personal aide to Governor-elect Stokes of New Jersey, is an insurance broker and a cousin of the late Secretary of State and Senator Frelinghuysen.

In Chicago Judge Walker decided that the city is not liable for damages growing out of the loss in connection with the loss of life in the Iroquois theatre fire.

At a conference in London of British, continental and Atlantic steamship line managers a satisfactory agreement was reached with regard to Scandinavian traffic.

The Connecticut Tobacco Growers' association has sent to each senator and representative from Connecticut in congress a circular letter protesting against the removal of the tariff from Philippine tobacco.

Secretary Wilson has promulgated a circular giving the results of tests made in accordance with an act of the last congress, directing him to obtain in the open market samples of seeds of grass, clover or alfalfa.

Representatives of the banking house of Mandelsohn & Co. at Berlin have gone to St. Petersburg to take part in negotiating the new Russian loan. It is now assured here that the loan will amount to \$240,000,000.

Seven more indictments in the land fraud cases were returned by the grand jury in Portland, Ore. Two of the bills were returned under fictitious names, which fact is the basis of reports that men of prominence are among the accused.

Russian officials have demanded of the Chinese foreign office the restitution of the ammunition apparently destined for Port Arthur seized by the Chinese authorities at Fengtai, near here, four days ago.

W. R. Jones, manager of the Chicago office of the Washburn-Crosby company of Minneapolis, Minn., died in Chicago from injuries sustained in a fall over a banister in his home. His skull and neck were broken by the fall.

The State bank of Dedham, Ia., was placed in the hands of a receiver on the order of State Auditor Carroll and an effort will be made to liquidate its affairs which are badly involved through an alleged \$15,000 shortage of Cashier J. A. Caton.

It is announced that the war office placed orders with the Vickers Sons & Maxim company, Armstrong Whitehead & Co., and other large ordnance manufacturers for a number of twelve-pounder field guns, to rearm the whole British army.

Justice Olmsted of New York handed down an opinion, holding that the law against the selling or giving away of street railway transfers is constitutional.

A charter was granted to the North western Railroad company of Elk City, Okl., capital \$1,875,000, to build from Elk City through Day, Woodward and Beaver counties in Oklahoma.

Laden with the largest cargo ever shipped out of San Francisco on a vessel, the steamer Mongolla departed for Chinese and Japanese ports. Her freight amounts to 12,000 tons.