

THE NORFOLK WEEKLY NEWS-JOURNAL.

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1903.

GAS PLANT WENT WRONG

Ranges and Lights Refused to Burn This Morning.

THE TROUBLE WAS REMEDIED.

After a Couple of Hours the Gas Was Again Circulated in the Mains and the Lights and Ranges Worked. Trouble With Electric Lights.

[From Friday's Daily.] There was all kinds of trouble at the power plant of the Norfolk Fuel and Light company this morning. For the first time since the plant was established here there was no gas in the pipes or the tanks when there should have been and Manager Fulton and his helpers began the work of locating the trouble with no positive assurance that they could have the machinery again performing its functions in an hour or a day. The situation was something new in the history of the plant, and they were not certain for some time wherein the trouble lay.

Customers in all parts of town were not less anxious than was the gas management. Lamps and ranges positively refused to burn, and while the resulting darkness was annoying to those who depended on the gas lights during the early hours, their trouble were not to be compared with who required the gas ranges for cooking purposes. In the homes various expedients were resorted to for securing the necessary heat to prepare breakfasts, and those who depended on the gas exclusively were compelled to take their cold. It might have been a good thing to cause the people to think of the importance of the convenience, and more greatly to appreciate it in the future.

The News was probably as greatly handicapped as any of the business institutions of the city, as the gas is depended upon to provide the heat for melting the metal for the linotype machine, and there was some guessing as to what could be substituted, but when it was found that there would be only an hour or two of interruption peace reigned once more. The trouble was located and gas began to circulate through the mains about 8 o'clock, to the great satisfaction of all the customers of the company.

B. W. Jonas of the postoffice force was one of the earliest to discover that there was something wrong with the lighting scheme. He was at the postoffice early and found it dark. The appearance was so unusual that he and the janitor entered the back room with some degree of caution, suspecting that there had been a visit of burglars, but was glad to find everything right, with the exception of the light.

Trouble at Electric Light Plant. The gas company was not alone in its trouble. The electric light company had trouble of its own, likewise. The arc lights blinked out shortly after 6 o'clock last evening, and were followed later by the darkening of the incandescent lamps on some of the lines, although it was managed to keep the lights going in the business houses.

A balky boiler caused the trouble, but it was got in line again in about half an hour, so that there was no great inconvenience caused.

OFFICERS OF SONS OF HERMAN.

Officials for the Coming Year Chosen and Six Candidates Initiated.

[From Saturday's Daily.] Norfolk lodge Sons of Herman held a large and enthusiastic annual meeting last night at their lodge room in G. A. R. hall, during which six candidates were initiated into the mysteries of the order, and officers for the ensuing year were elected.

Grand President Fred Volpp of Wayne was present at the meeting and received the cordial greeting of his fellow members.

The officers chosen were as follows: President, Carl Laubsch; vice president, John Osterling; recording secretary, Aug. Brummund; financial secretary, Albert Wilde; treasurer, Wm. Kiesau; trustee, F. D. Krantz; conductor, Herman Koch; inside watch, Otto Uhle; outside watch, Herman Maas; committee on sick, Jarvis Mittelstadt, Theodore Wille and Frank Ueckerman; representatives to the grand lodge C. F. A. Marquardt, A. F. Kiehl, Frank Jarner and Albert Wilde. Aug. Brummund will also attend the grand lodge by virtue of his office as a member of the grand lodge trustees. This meeting will be held at Fremont on January 26, 1904.

Owing to the date of the next regular meeting of the lodge coming on Christmas night, it was decided to meet the night after Christmas, Saturday, December 26.

THE COLDEST YET.

Mercury Struck Below Zero Gait Last Night and the Wind Rubbed It In.

Last night was the coldest of the season, the mercury in Dr. Salter's government thermometer registering at minus four. A brisk northwest drove it into the warm places and an

extra amount of fuel and clothing was required to counteract its chilling influence on mankind in general.

Exposed ears, noses and fingers, and the toes not warmly clad were in serious danger of being nipped this morning, but it has not yet been learned that the doctors had any amputations to perform because of the frigid atmosphere. The weather man promises more cold tonight and warmer Sunday.

TWELVE BELOW THE ZERO POINT

Excessively Cold Temperature for the Season Registered Yesterday Morning—Still Cold.

[From Monday's Daily.] The record for this year and perhaps for several years in pre-Christmas temperature, was made yesterday morning when the mercury receded toward the bulb until it stood at twelve below zero as recorded by Dr. Salter's thermometer. The people realized that the air was frosty and the cold severe, but were hardly prepared to accept the report that it had gone as low as it did.

Old Boreas commenced doing business Saturday and kept it up, with hardly a let up until this morning, moderating slightly yesterday morning, but bearing down harder again last night, until it stood at four below the cipher this morning.

It was plenty cold and the coal went so lively enough to satisfy the State historical der in that fuel.

SWEET CORN SPECULATION CRAZE

Farmers Said to Be Ignoring Contracts and Selling Product for a Very High Figure.

Valley, Neb., Dec. 14.—This place has practically gone crazy speculating in corn and everybody who has a little money available is buying corn as fast as possible, and the result is that one hears nothing else. This corn is not the ordinary field product, but is known as "Stowell's Evergreen," and is of the sweet variety. This year, as has been the custom for several years past, the seedsmen in this section have made contracts with farmers to take the sweet corn seed at an average price of \$1.00 to \$1.25 per 100 pounds, the latter figure being the price agreed upon for this year's crop. Owing to the drought in the east and heavy rains in the west, the crop of sweet corn is short. A great many farmers sold the corn according to their contract with the seedsmen for \$1.25 per 100 pounds and were satisfied that they had received an equivalent for their labor.

All this changed about two weeks ago when a buyer for a Chicago seedsmen arrived in Valley and offered \$9 per 100 pounds for sweet corn seed. Farmers who had made contracts to deliver their corn in Valley for \$1.25 were up against the warmest proposition they had seen in years. A great many totally ignored their contracts and disposed of their corn to the highest bidder. One farmer who had signed a seedsmen's contract, it is said, took his corn to Omaha in the night and sold it for \$19 per 100 pounds.

A Saunders county farmer, who is holding some 400 bushels of prime corn, has had a score of offers to sell at between \$9 and \$10, but he is still holding onto his corn.

A report coming from Omaha to the effect that seed corn was worth \$12 per 100 pounds in Iowa, has again started speculation and everybody is looking for sweet corn at any price.

Now a Republican Paper.

Fairbury, Neb., Dec. 14.—The Fairbury News, which has formerly been published as a democratic paper by Albert H. Hammond, came out Friday evening as a full fledged republican paper, bearing the name of Lew. Shelley as editor, the latter having purchased a half interest in the publication and assumed editorial control. Mr. Hammond will still be connected with the publication.

About two years ago Mr. Shelley severed his connection with the Fairbury Gazette and accepted a position as deputy county treasurer, which office he resigned a few days ago.

FREIGHT TRAINS COLLIDE.

Engines and Cars Damaged and Much Wheat Spilled.

Beaver City, Neb., Dec. 14.—A collision in the railroad yards at Beaver City Saturday night resulted in damage to two engines and several box cars. A large quantity of wheat was spilled on the ground. Engine No. 241, running extra and heavily loaded, ran through the rear end of engine No. 280, standing on a siding and attached by the front coupling to a string of loaded cars. Luckily no one was seriously injured. A wrecking crew from McCook arrived this morning and by noon the yard was cleared.

Six Years For Housebreaking.

Pender, Neb., Dec. 14.—Andrew Lee, charged with housebreaking and burglary, was arraigned before District Judge Graves and pleaded guilty in each case. He received a sentence of six years in the penitentiary. Deputy Sheriff Kelso took the prisoner to Lincoln.

OTHER CHANGES RUMORED

Fremont Hears That Superintendent is to be Retired.

THAT CITY MAY LOSE PRESTIGE.

Norfolk and Missouri Valley to be the Only Layover Stations on This Division of the Northwestern—All Trains Operated From Norfolk.

[From Friday's Daily.] The following story of changes and rumored changes on the Northwestern line appeared in the Fremont Tribune of Thursday evening. Similar rumors have been in circulation at Norfolk, but have been as persistently denied by those in official position, who are on the inside and should have much information in their possession if they choose to give it out.

"The transfer of the superintendent's office of the Nebraska and Wyoming division of the Northwestern railroad from Omaha to Norfolk took place yesterday. Superintendent C. C. Hughes and his chief clerk, Frank Roach, passed through Fremont on an afternoon train, going to Norfolk in Mr. Hughes' private car to make permanent headquarters at that place. In future Norfolk will be the seat of operation for all trains on the division, except those that run on the South Platte lines and local trains running in and out of Deadwood and Chadron.

"With the removal of the superintendent's office to Norfolk, the rumors hitherto heard as to the retirement of Superintendent Mahanna are being revived. They have come persistently from sources that are apparently authentic, but on the other hand are as persistently denied by those close to Mr. Mahanna. The talk now is that Superintendent C. H. Reynolds of Norfolk will either become assistant superintendent or be assigned to a good place in another state, while Superintendent E. A. Harmon of Chadron will have the title of assistant superintendent or trainmaster. If Superintendent Mahanna leaves the road, Chief Dispatcher J. J. Welch may be made trainmaster.

"There are some pessimistically inclined persons who express the opinion that Fremont is soon to lose much of her prestige as a division station. Just how much foundation there is for this statement cannot be told, but it is said to be the desire of the Northwestern management to make Norfolk and Missouri Valley the only layover stations for freight crews on the main line of this division. At present a great many crews have their off periods here and make Fremont their home, but under such an arrangement as the one suggested most of them would have to remove to Norfolk or Missouri Valley."

IMPORTANT CASE.

L. T. Latham Seeks to Recover Note Worth \$2,000.

Hartington, Neb., Dec. 14.—Quite an important case is before the district court and jury, wherein L. T. Latham is seeking to recover of Nels Anderson, a wealthy stockman of this county, a note given for \$2,000.

J. L. Tinkoom, a wealthy and retired farmer of Cedar county, today bought a half interest in G. A. Hanna's large mercantile establishment in Hartington.

State Claims An Estate.

Plattsmouth, Neb., Dec. 14.—The state of Nebraska, by Attorney General Prout, has brought suit in the county court to secure an estate in this county, valued at \$6,000, left by John King on the ground that King died leaving neither widow or kindred. King died last April and some of the interested parties believe he left a will which cannot be found.

Besides the state there are four other claimants to the property, namely: Daniel W. McCurdy, Lucinda Jane Urwin, Francis M. King and George B. King.

STATE DEBT IS GROWING.

Grown a Quarter Million During Six Months.

Lincoln, Dec. 14.—Within six months the interest bearing debt of the state has increased more than \$20,000. So declares the auditor in his semi-annual report filed with the governor this afternoon.

The total interest bearing debt of the state amounts to \$2,282,993.71. On June 1, 1903, the debt amounted to \$1,997,671.98. State Treasurer Mortensen declared that tax collections were halting and inconstant as a result of the revenue litigation, and the auditor said that the appropriations of the last legislature had raided the state funds. The two causes combined to increase the indebtedness of the state.

Much misinformation exists in regard to the revenue law. Its provisions will have no effect whatever on taxes already assessed or on the labors of assessors during the last year. Whether the act be constitutional or not these sums must be paid. Taxpayers, according to the state officials, have assumed that the contri-

butions for state government would be increased and then to have concluded that the law was already in operation. State Treasurer Mortensen complains that taxation money arrives very slowly and he is striving hard to provide the state with funds.

State Treasurer Mortensen has already made arrangements to pay off \$40,000 in warrants December 15. He has issued a call for \$50,000 more on December 21, and he announced this morning that he intended to call in \$50,000 in warrants December 28.

"We would like to retire \$150,000 in interest bearing warrants if possible," said State Treasurer Mortensen today. "At present we are sure of getting at least \$140,000 out of the way."

The actual increase in the state debt is \$255,505.23. Should the state treasurer be successful in his effort the debt would be reduced to \$115,505.23.

Crotty-Kennedy.

[From Monday's Daily.] Two of South Norfolk's popular young people were united in marriage at the 8 o'clock mass in the Sacred Heart church this morning by Rev. Father O'Driscoll when Miss Jennie Kennedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Kennedy, and Mr. Thomas Crotty took the vows that made them one.

A wedding dinner was served at noon at the home of the bride's parents in South Norfolk, and the young people will make their home in that part of the city.

Mr. Crotty was formerly in the service of the Northwestern railway, but resigned his position some time ago. The young people are well known throughout the city and have numerous friends to wish them an abundance of joy in their new relation.

Case Baffled Physicians.

Plattsmouth, Neb., Dec. 12.—One of the most peculiar cases which has come to the notice of local physicians was that of Johnny Kuschinsky, a seven year old boy who died Wednesday. About a year ago, while in his usual health, the boy suddenly became blind. Local physicians were consulted but the case baffled their skill. He was then taken to Dr. Gifford, the noted specialist of Omaha, but there no better results were obtained. As the time passed the child's health declined, and then another affliction—that of the loss of his sense of hearing—came upon him. Wednesday he became afflicted with spasms in a most violent form and died several hours later. His condition during the last few days of his short span of life was most pitiable.

HUNTER ARRESTED.

Shot and Killed a Deer in Nebraska Out of Season.

Dakota City, Neb., Dec. 12.—E. Hunger of Lincoln, deputy game warden, had a warrant issued for the arrest of George Johns, the party who on November 30 killed a deer on Walker's island, which was the property of a Mr. Latta, who resides near Tekamah. The open season for killing deer in Nebraska is from August 15 to November 15. It is unlawful to pursue, kill or wound a deer out of this season and the penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$300 or to be imprisoned in the county jail not more than ninety days. The warrant was placed in Sheriff Sides' hands today, being issued out of Judge Elmers' court.

THE FRANCHISE TAKEN AWAY

Fremont City Council Declares Charter of a Local Telephone Company Forfeited.

Fremont, Neb., Dec. 14.—It did not take long for the city council to dispose of the resolution declaring a forfeiture of the Fremont Telephone company's franchise because of an increase in rates, two councilmen alone out of the eight casting their votes in the negative. Mr. Lee raised his voice in opposition to the step, but the six remained unmoved and voted solidly for the resolution without making any reply to what the first ward councilman had said.

One or two extraneous matters first occupied the council's attention, and after they were out of the way Mr. Forman moved that wherever the words "Fremont Telephone company" appeared in the resolution it should be changed to "Fremont Telephone Co.," so as to correspond exactly with the franchise ordinance. After this motion had been adopted, Mr. Herre asked with an air of extreme solicitation, whether all the councilmen had crossed and the 's' dotted.

The resolution was read and City Clerk Stiles said that he had given official notice to the Fremont Telephone company's officers to appear in its behalf if they wished to say anything before a vote was taken. W. D. Crist, the manager, was in the council chamber, but said he had no remarks to offer. Mr. Lee moved to strike out the section requiring the street and sidewalk committee to remove the poles and wires from the streets and alleys after ninety days if the company should neglect to do so within that time. There was no second to the motion. The resolution was then voted upon.

MISS POWERS OF PIERCE

Wins the Prize in the Daily News Voting Contest.

HAS 5,896 VOTES TO HER CREDIT.

Voted the Most Popular Young Lady of North Nebraska by News Subscribers—Surprises that Developed the Last Day of the Voting.

[From Saturday's Daily.] Miss Mary Powers of Pierce is the winner in The News voting contest for the most popular young lady in North Nebraska, entitling her and four of her friends to the best box in the Auditorium next Monday evening, when that delightful play "Lost River" will be presented by an excellent company. The balloting closed at 6 o'clock last evening, at which hour Miss Powers had 5,896 votes.

At the beginning of the day yesterday, Miss Powers had 2,877 votes to her credit. Before 6 o'clock last night 3,019 more votes had been cast, making her a total of 5,896. Pierce showed considerable spirit of town pride, and with a steady pull from the opening of the contest until its close the people of that town backed Miss Powers to victory. Miss Mary Powers is stenographer in the real estate office of her brother, W. E. Powers, at Pierce, a young lady of pleasing manners, and popular among the people of Pierce as is well attested by the cordial support they gave her during the contest just ended. She is well and favorably known by a number of Norfolk people.

The last day of the contest showed some remarkable surprises, the greatest of which was the way the votes were rolled in for Miss Lena McKnight of Long Pine. Beyond entering her name at the outset of the contest two weeks ago, there was no indication up to yesterday morning that anything further would be done in her interest. But it seems that the hustlers of Long Pine were not asleep, but were simply waiting to spring a surprise on the remainder of North Nebraska. Every train from the west yesterday brought a big bunch of votes for Miss McKnight and just before the close of the contest last evening more came by telegraph. The spirit that was manifested by Long Pine on behalf of its favorite daughter denotes the kind of hustle that does things in the west and demonstrates conclusively that Long Pine is a wide awake town. A voting contest, however, is always an unknown quantity, and in this case the spirit is there to gain the desired end if it had been thought necessary to do more. Miss Lena McKnight, who with the aid of her many friends, came so near capturing the honor, is one of the popular young ladies of Long Pine. She is the daughter of Dr. H. P. McKnight, leading druggist of the town, and is a member of the Ladies Silver band.

Miss May Willis of Battle Creek, who stood second on the list yesterday morning with 2,728 votes to her credit, finished with an addition of 2,983 votes during the day, bringing her total up to 4,811. Battle Creek people stood nobly by, and if Henry Newerk had known that more votes were necessary there is no doubt but they would have been forthcoming. Miss May Willis is the daughter of Postmaster F. H. L. Willis of Battle Creek and a deputy in the postoffice. Her standing in Battle Creek society is heartily attested by the cordial efforts of the people of her home town to get the honors for her.

Miss Hilda Lovinegreen of Neligh stood at the head of the column yesterday morning, having 2,539 votes, but the usual Neligh spirit of enterprise was not manifested during the last hours and she finished fourth, with 3,133 votes. Miss Lovinegreen is chief clerk in the store of Wolfe Brothers at Neligh and has been in their employ during the last five years, previous to that time being clerk for A. J. Anderson for three years. She is the main support of her aged parents, and is very popular with a large circle of acquaintances who championed her cause.

Miss Lydia Klug, the Stanton representative, received a handsome complimentary vote, finishing with 1,818. She is the daughter of one of Stanton's prosperous farmers and is employed as a clerk in the general merchandise store of Frank Raabe. She has lived in the vicinity of Stanton during most of her life, and numbers some of the town's best people among her friends. She is not unknown in Norfolk, being a niece of W. L. Kern and has frequently visited here.

The balloting was closed promptly at 6 o'clock last evening, the box in which the votes were contained was sealed until after supper, when Messrs. Frank H. Beals and H. L. Dean were invited to open the box and count the ballots. This was done in the presence of others, the result being set forth in the following certificate:

"Norfolk, Neb., Dec. 11, 1903.—We the undersigned certify that we served as judges in the count of votes for

the theatre box contest offered by the Norfolk Daily News, and we find that Miss Mary Powers of Pierce is winner, the result being as follows:

Miss Mary Powers, Pierce.....5,896
Miss Lena McKnight, Long Pine.....5,318
Miss May Willis, Battle Creek.....4,811
Miss Hilda Lovinegreen, Neligh.....3,133
Miss Lydia Klug, Stanton.....1,818
Miss Estella M. Daniels, Ainsworth.....250

Frank H. Beals,
H. L. Dean.

The prize was offered to the most popular young lady in north Nebraska outside of Norfolk and no ballots for young ladies residing in this city were accepted. Under these conditions it was not expected that Norfolk people would vote for any of the contestants, although they had a perfect right to cut the free coupons from the paper and cast them for their favorite. As a matter of fact, though, very few votes were offered by the people of this city. As it is remembered, but three yearly subscriptions were cast by Norfolk people and they were given to different young ladies.

The News can not help but feel gratified at the interest that has been taken in the contest. If it does anything it demonstrates that the "new" News is gaining a sure foothold in outside towns, and that was the object desired when the offer was made.

THREE DEATHS AT WEST POINT

Wm. Golder a Pioneer Farmer and Prominent Mason Died this Morning.

West Point, Neb., Dec. 14.—Special to The News: William Golder, a pioneer farmer and prominent Mason of Cumming county, died this morning at his farm home near Scribner, and the funeral will be held Wednesday, under Masonic auspices, Hon. E. K. Valentine officiating.

Mrs. Anna Novak, aged about eighty years and a resident of Cumming county since 1869, died and was buried yesterday from the Catholic church.

John Langan, manager of the Nebraska Telephone company's office at Monterey, who recently died of injuries received by falling under the hoofs of a runaway team of horses, was buried from the Catholic church this morning.

MADISON SECOND ON OATS

Labor Commissioner's Office Figures Out Production of Cereals in Nebraska.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 14.—Chief Clerk Despain of the office of the labor commissioner has just completed a computation of Nebraska crops. The wheat yield, he estimates, is 43,659,318; corn, 159,693,966; oats, 55,619,595; rye, 10,195,791 bushels.

Clay county is the leader in the race for supremacy as a wheat producer, the total yield being 2,048,815. Phelps county, in the region known as Western Nebraska, reports a yield of 1,700,240 bushels, while York county comes in as the third largest producer of the bread-maker's cereal. Adams county produced 1,536,321 bushels; Kearney county, 1,034,459; Red Willow county, 1,555,870; Furnas county, 1,699,314. Lancaster county harvested 571,591 bushels.

Jefferson county is by long odds the greatest producer of oats, having harvested 4,573,478 bushels, nearly twice as many bushels as its closest competitor, Madison county, the next largest producer, which is credited with 2,234,138 bushels. Platte county comes in third in the race, with 2,304,588 bushels. Lancaster county produced 1,523,825 bushels of oats.

Custer county comes to the front as a rye county, the yield having been 959,159 bushels. Dawson county, in the same region, is second, with 882,831 bushels, while Frontier county claims 616,384 bushels. Lancaster county yielded only 59,078 bushels of the distiller's cereal.

OLD SETTLER GONE.

W. L. Golder of Scribner Dies in California, Where He Sought Health.

Scribner, Neb., Dec. 12.—Special to The News: A message received from Riverside, Cal., announces the death of W. L. Golder, one of the oldest and best known settlers in this part of the state. Mr. Golder went west a month ago, hoping to get relief from heart trouble, but the climatic change was of no avail. He died in a hospital. Mr. Golder leaves a son and three daughters. The remains will arrive here Monday or Tuesday.

Falls Under Horses' Feet.

West Point, Neb., Dec. 14.—A sad accident occurred here this week. August Langan, a farmer, merchant and postmaster at Monterey, was loading goods from the warehouse of the Stieren-Jerman company and in standing on the doubletree of his wagon his feet slipped and he fell under the feet of the horses and caused a runaway. He was so badly hurt that after lingering in great agony for three days he died. He was 38 years old and leaves a widow and five small children in moderate circumstances.