CHANCE FOR A SUGAR PLANT

If the Farmers Will Raise Beets a Factory Will Be Built.

PROPOSITION OF THE MANUFACTURERS

This Year's Experimental Crop Will Find a Market at Norfolk—The Douglas County Association's Offer to Farmers.

Some enterprising citizens of Omaha have been earnestly at work during the past ten days on plans for securing the location of an immense beet sugar factory in this city, and the prospects now are that they will be successful.

Negotiations have been had with the managers of the Norfolk Beet Sugar company and have received assurances that a factory will be started in Omaha if certain essential conditions are complied with. The beet sugar people propose to build two factories in the west next year and prefer Omaha as a location for one of the factories, the only question with them being as to whether or not they can be furnished beets in sufficient quantity to run the factory. "Beets are more essential than bounties in our business," says Secretary Hamilton of the Norfolk company, "and if the farmers in the vicinity of Omaha will furnish the beets, engage to supply them in sufficient quantities for a term of years we will furnish the factory."

Farmers of Douglas and adjacent counties will be given an opportunity to try their hand at this culture this year as shown by the following interesting correspondence:

Overtures of the Local Association.

OMAHA, Feb. 8.—J. G. Hamilton, Esq., Secretary Norfolk Beet Sugar company, Norfolk, Neb. Dear Sir: I write to ascertain whether your company would entertain the purchase of the product of 500 acres of sugar beets that we propose to have planted in this vicinity during the coming season, and if so, and you would buy them, upon what terms, f. o. b. Norfolk or Omaha, and whether you could furnish us the seed and at what price.

I understand that there are now improved implements especially adapted to the culture of sugar beets, and that your company rent these to the farmers. Is this correct, and in the event of our being able to agree upon terms with you, have you sufficient quantity to supply us with same, as we would not care to purchase them, but would like to rent them for the season?

Will you kindly favor me with an early reply together with any information that you might think would be of value to us, and if you have any printed instructions kindly send me a copy of the same, together with a blank contract, such as you are making with the farmers around Norfolk. We have already applied to the railroad companies to see what rate could be made on beets to Norfolk, and I am reasonably assured they see the importance of giving us a rate that will enable our making the experiment that we contemplate. Awaiting your reply, I am very truly yours, W. N. NASON,
Secretary Douglas County Beet Sugar Association.

Secretary Hamilton's Plain Proposition.

OFFICE OF THE NORFOLK BEET SUGAR COMPANY, NORFOLK, Neb., Feb. 16, 1892.—W. N. Nason, Esq., Secretary of the Douglas County Beet Sugar Association, Board of Trade building, Omaha, Neb.: My Dear Sir—Replying to your esteemed favor of the 8th inst., which I find here on my arrival from California, I beg to state that we will gladly take the product of 500 acres of sugar beets raised by your association upon the following conditions:

That a satisfactory rate can be made with the railroads; and secondly, that you will not permit any one individual to plant more than five acres of beets, or a less quantity than two acres; selecting only the very best class of farmers, who have a reputation of being thrifty and thorough in their work, and who either own or rent good farms. My reasons for this are that your contemplated experiment means a great deal for the interests of the beet sugar industry in the United States, and we should only care to see it result in a very satisfactory manner.

If these conditions which I have named are agreeable to you, our company would take the beets in car load lots, upon the conditions of the within contracts, blanks of which I herewith enclose. We would also furnish you with the latest and most improved beet seeders and cultivators, charging you for the use of same, $1 per acre, that is to say, $1 per acre would cover the entire expense, for use of both seeders and cultivators. The seeders will plant ten acres a day with a team of horses and driver; and the cultivators will do an equal number of acres per day with one horse and driver. There is also a harvester in the market which cuts the top off the beet and takes it out of the ground, but it is not yet a perfect success, but I hope before the harvesting of the crop of 1892 there will be an implement in the market that will properly cut the top off the beet, taking it out of the ground and depositing it in the wagon. Should these contemplated harvesters not be perfected in time, we would give you the use of any implements that we have for that purpose, together with any advice daily tending to make your experiment successful.

The seed which you would require we will furnish (from that which we have now on the way from Europe), at 10 cents a pound, which is less than its actual cost. We will also furnish you the services of one of our agricultural experts, to meet your farmers and give them full and complete instructions as to beet cultivation and send you any quantity of printed matter in either German or English (or both) that you might require.

Let me state in conclusion that I understand our trial is with a view of ascertaining what can be done by our farmers when cultivating the beet in a proper manner. To that end, I would most earnestly suggest that the greatest care should be exercised in selecting the parties who are to plant the beets, seeing that their land is of the right character, and properly prepared. With these conditions carried out, and a favorable season, it is my belief that the cultivation of sugar beets is one of the most profitable crops and attended by less risks, that can be grown in our state. Yours very truly,
J. G. HAMILTON,
Secretary Norfolk Beet Sugar Company.

Omaha's Advantageous Position.

In an interview Mr. Daniel Farrall, jr., president of the Douglas County Sugar Beet association, said:

"Omaha presents greater inducements for the location of the beet sugar plant than any other place west of the Missouri river. Its railroad communications, its water facilities, accessibility to an unlimited and ready market for the products of the factory, together with the great advantages that the factory would have in disposing of the beet pulp, which, I understand, makes a most excellent food for the fattening of cattle, and has been found to be invaluable where used for dairy cattle; and not losing sight of the fact that coal or oil (whichever was consumed as a fuel), limestone and coke could be had by the manufacturers at less cost than is paid at either Norfolk or Grand Island, which, you can readily understand, is a matter of great importance; and for the further reason that labor is abundant in and around a large city like Omaha.

"It means a subdivision of our farms and a better grade of farmers, where a man can find support for himself and family by the proper cultivation of ten acres of ground instead of 100. Norfolk and Grand Island are being advertised over the entire world, while Omaha, with its great facilities and wealth, should in fact have been the first choice for an industry of this kind. Our association has already been approached by capitalists and we propose to be in the field to demonstrate just what can be done.

Capital to Back the Enterprise.

"I have talked to several influential parties who are very ready to invest their money in this enterprise, provided our farmers will furnish the raw material, and I believe from information, derived from various sources, that the sugar beet can be produced by our farmers in such quantities as will make a very lucrative crop for them to grow.

"Mr. A. W. Fullreide, who is known here by many of our citizens, last year produced thirty-seven tons of sugar beets to the acre, which analyzed 17 per cent saccharine with a purity coefficient of 84. Taking the price that the Norfolk Beet Sugar company pays for such beets, this gentleman would reap a gross result of $5.50 per ton, or $203.50 per acre. In going over the figures of expenses in the cultivation of these beets, this gentleman had to do all the work by hand, which cost him less than $30 per acre. The World's fair takes place next year, where, I understand, there will be in active operation a miniature factory that will work five or six tons per diem, so that every one can see the operation from the time that the beets come in from the sheds to where the granulated sugar ready for the table is made. Thousands of visitors from Europe, the home of beet sugar factories, will visit this country, and it seems to me that there is no bonus that could be offered by any town or city that would be half as attractive to the manufacturer as would be the complete knowledge that the farmers were ready and anxious to supply all the raw material necessary for a large plant. I understand that these factories only work about four months each year, while their expenses run over a very much longer period, and consequently the larger the plant the greater the economy in its work, provided of course it has the raw material.

Let the Farmers Decide the Case.

"It has occurred to our association that we could in no way benefit Omaha to better advantage, or more quickly attract the attention of capitalists who contemplate building sugar plants, than to demonstrate by a popular vote of our farmers, after they have had practical experience, that they could raise the beets, and to this end we want each and every farmer who has the interests of our city and vicinity at stake to put in from two to five acres of sugar beets, giving them the very best possible cultivation, and keeping an exact account of the cost of raising the same. To that end we will give them the option of either of the following contracts, deducting 50 cents per ton for freight:

"Four ($4) dollars per ton straight for any and all beets containing not less than 12 per cent sugar with a purity coefficient of 80, or

Per ton.	Per Cent of Sugar.	Purity coefficient.
$4 00	12 and less than 14	80
4 50	13 and less than 14	80
4 00	14 and less than 15	80
4 50	15 and less than 16	80
5 00	16 and less than 17	80
5 50	17 and less than 18	80
6 00	18 and less than 19	80
6 50	19 and less than 20	80
7 00	20 and less than 21	80

"Blank contracts, either in German or English, upon the back of which will be found general instructions for the cultivation of the sugar beet, can be had by application to Mr. W. N. Nason, secretary of our association, whose office is in the Board of Trade building."

SPARKS OF SPORT.

Results at Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER, N. J., Feb. 20.—Raining, track heavy:

First race, six and one-quarter furlongs, selling: Sam D won, Lee S second, Laura S third. Templemore (the favorite) ran unplaced. Weft Farms drawn. Time: 1:26½.

Second race, six and one-quarter furlongs, selling: William Henry won, Paola (the favorite) second, Prodigal third. Carnelia drawn. Time: 1:27.

Third race, seven-eighths of a mile, selling: Trispin won, Umpire Kelly (the favorite) second, Rose Howard third. Little Addie drawn. Time: 1:35½.

Fouth race, seven-eighths of a mile, handicap: Algonquin won, Belesarius (the favorite) second, Umilta third. Lotion and Elyter drawn. Time: 1:34½.

Fifth race, five-eighths of a mile, selling: Blackburn (the favorite) won, Emma J. second, Mucilage third. Comrade and Gardner drawn. Time: 1:07½.

Sixth race, one and one-eighth of a mile, selling: Vendetta (the favorite) won, Garwood second, Pilgrim third, Dousman, drawn. Time: 2:07½.

Going at Guttenberg.

GUTTENBERG, N. J., Feb. 20.—The track was very heavy today and the drizzling rain had the effect of greatly diminishing the usual Saturday attendance.

First race, seven furlongs: Peralto won, Cascade second, Turk third. Time: 1:33¾.

Second race, five furlongs: McKeever won, Bajjarat second, Sir Launcelot third. Time: 1:05¾.

Third race, six and one-half furlongs: Smuggler won, Magic second, George C third. Time: 1:20¾.

Fourth race, five furlongs: Alma T won, Flora second, Innovation third. Time: 1:06.

Fifth race, seven furlongs: Blitzen won, Vagabond second, Prince Howard third. Time: 1:34.

Sixth race, one mile: Harry Ireland won, Lady Pulsifer second, Forest King third. Time: 1:52¾.

Good Track at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 20.—Four good races were run today in fair weather over a fast track.

First race, selling five furlongs: Mitchell won, Bob Purdy second, Claudina third. Time: 1:05¼.

Second race, five and one-half furlongs: Zoodein won, Intruder second, Winnie Davis third. Time: 1.08¾.

Third race, selling, seven furlongs. American Lady won, Modjeska second, Sir Planet third. Time: 1:28.

Fourth race, mile and seventy yards: Ornie won, Lady Unde second, Pat Conley third. Time: 1:48.

An Old Friend.

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 19.—To the Sporting Editor of THE BEE: In a game of high-five, 52 points, A is 49, B also 49; A bids 8, and makes low, jack, game, one five, B making high five. Which wins? And oblige.

A CONSTANT READER.

This question has been answered so often in these columns that the sporting editor can now tell the correct reply with his eyes shut. The count in high-five, as in all other games of the nature, is high, low, jack and the game, then the two fives. Consequently low, jack, game goes out before high five.

Beatrice Moving in Base Ball.

BEATRICE, Neb., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—An enthusiastic meeting in the interest of base ball was held at the Paddock hotel this evening. H. L. Ewing was elected delegate to attend the state league meeting to be held at Lincoln, March 1. Three thousand dollars was guaranteed. Harry Gatewood will probably be chosen manager of the Beatrice team.

ACCIDENTS OF A DAY.

Fatal Wreck on the Elkhorn in South Dakota—Other Casualties.

RAPID CITY, S. D., Feb. 20.—Particulars were received here this morning of a wreck on the Elkhorn road near Smithwicks late yesterday afternoon. The train ran into cattle upon the road and six cars were thrown from the track. A conductor named Benson of Chadron, Neb., and the only passenger, Commissioner Humphreys of Custer county, received injuries from which they died shortly afterwards.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—Freight train No. 13 on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road crashed through the bridge over the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern near Linn Junction, five miles north of here, about 7 this morning. Thirteen cars smashed through the bridge, eight of which were demolished. No one was injured, but the loss will be heavy.

CARROLL, Ia., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—A head end collision occurred seven miles west of Carroll at 2:35 this morning. Fifteen cars were ditched. Brakeman Joe Beach and Fireman A. Graves were injured.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—By a fall of slate in a coal mine south of this city Joseph Beswick was killed, David Hughes had a leg broken, and several other men were injured. The deceased leaves a wife and child.

ERIE, Pa., Feb. 20.—The heavy fogs of last night were disastrous to railroad men here. The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern road had two rear end collisions between Erie and Dunkirk, and white much property was destroyed, no lives were lost.

On the Nickel Plate the employes were not so fortunate. A flagman failed to get his flag back to the proper distance and one freight ran into another. Engineer George Schaeffer and Brakeman George O'Dell of Conneaut jumped, but were badly hurt. Fireman C. E. Fuller of Conneaut, O., was caught in the wreckage and was instantly killed. An engine and twenty cars were entirely destroyed, and several thousand dollars worth of freight was mixed in the debris.

Big Ice Gorge Breaks.

PARKER, Pa., Feb. 20.—The great ice gorge which caused feelings of apprehension along the Allegheny river a distance of twenty-nine miles, for nearly a week, broke here at 2 o'clock this morning, and by daylight all the ice had passed out. The water rose rapidly, inundating the upper end of Parker, and several houses on the banks were washed away, but the occupants deserted them before the flood came. Beyond this no damage was done.

Three Children Burned to Death.

IRONWOOD, Mich., Feb. 20.—A lamp explosion last night caused the burning of a store building occupied by Bedard's saloon and by the family of Charles DeLong. Camps above. Three of Camp's children, Albert, aged 1, Marie, aged 5, and Charles, aged 2, were burned to death. The other members of the family escaped with difficulty.

Found Murdered in a Boat.

ALTON, Ill., Feb. 20.—In a boat drifting down the river today there was found the dead body of a middle aged man. He had evidently been robbed, bound to the boat and murdered, after which the skiff was set adrift. There is no clew to his identity.

HE WILL BREAK THE RECORD

Secretary Foster Will Make a Hurried Trip to England.

UNUSUAL FEATURES OF THE CASE

First Cabinet Officer to Make Such a Journey During His Term of Office in the History of the Union.

WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.

Probably for the first time in the history of the union a cabinet officer is to visit Europe. Secretary Foster expects to sail from the port of New York on next Tuesday at 1 o'clock, accompanied by his physician, Surgeon General Hamilton of the marine hospital service, and Colonel MacLellan of the Treasury department. It has up to this time remained for cabinet officers to defer their trips abroad until they retire to private life, but Secretary Foster will depart from this custom and pass over neutral territory into the realms of our commercial enemy—England. It is the purpose of Secretary Foster and his friends to land at Southampton and run up to London for a day and night in order that they may occupy the time which will intervene before they can take the return ship back home. There will be a demonstration in the harbor of New York when Secretary Foster sails. It is understood that a salute of seventeen guns will be fired as the Spree goes down the bay, and there will probably be a serenade at the wharf in Hoboken as the secretary steps aboard the ship.

The president has, it is said, directed that a beautiful floral tribute shall be sent aboard the Spree as a mark of personal remembrance. Secretary Foster's condition of health is very greatly improved from what it was three months ago, when he was suffering the direct effects of a relapse from the grip, and he begins to look like his old self again, but the secretary finds that he has not got that firm foundation for permanent and complete restoration which he desires, and has, therefore, concluded to see if a sea voyage will not give him substantial benefit.

Trouble Over a Joke.

A joke perpetrated by J. H. McMurtry of Lincoln has made the senators here a great deal of trouble. Some time since Mr. McMurtry wrote here asking the senators of Nebraska as a very great personal favor to himself to unite with certain Kentucky friends in saying a good word for a relative of his of the same name, residing in Kentucky, who is a candidate for a foreign appointment, chargeable to the state of Kentucky. Both senators cheerfully complied with this request and Senator Paddock, as an answer to J. H. McMurtry's request, sent him the letter of Private Secretary Halford, acknowledging the receipt of his concurrent communication. The playful observation of the Lincoln McMurtry as to the proffer to himself of such an appointment which he did not care about taking is bringing down upon the senators a deluge of patriotic assurances from their good republican friends in Nebraska that each and all of them are ready to accept the appointment which Mr. McMurtry is doubtful about indulging in himself. The senators are of the opinion that neither the Nebraska nor the Kentucky McMurtry is in imminent danger of being called to Sidney, Australia, or any other foreign consulate at the present time.

Granite for Omaha's Federal Building.

Granite from Red Cloud, Minn., is to be used in the construction of the foundation for the Omaha federal building. The award for the iron work of the building will not be made until Supervising Architect Edbrooke returns to the city, which may not be for a week or ten days. Supervising Architect Edbrooke will likely visit Omaha in a few days. He is now at Chicago, whence he goes to Kansas City. From the latter place it is understood that he will proceed to Omaha and look over the ground and surroundings in connection with the new public building.

Miscellaneous.

Postmasters appointed today: Nebraska—Coffman, Washington county, R. A. Steyer, vice T. J. Conole, resigned; Hull, Banner county, M. W. Loop, vice Z. V. Cleveland, resigned. Iowa—Bennettville, Dubuque county, A. Cota, vice J. J. Cota, deceased; Chisholm, Monroe county, F. F. Berthold, vice W. L. Woodard, resigned; Crown, Decatur county, R. Burns, vice E. J. Lewis, resigned; Quarry, Marshall county, E. Hume, vice J. L. Inman, removed; Shoolfy, Johnson county, J. H. Hanlon, vice J. Henry, resigned; South Dakota—Krauzburg, Coddington county, J. M. Nill, vice G. Green, removed. Wyoming—Sundance, Crook county, J. Breneman, vice C. S. Price, resigned.

B. H. Sullivan of Huron, surveyor general of South Dakota, is at the National.

F. F. Grant and wife of Watertown, S. D., are at the Ebbitt.

A favorable report has been made upon Senator Manderson's bill to remove the charge of desertion, now standing against George Alcott of Nebraska, on the rolls of the War department.

T. M. Dorsey, cashier of the First National bank of Ponca, and his associates have applied for a charter to establish a First National bank at Norfolk. Deputy Comptroller Nixon today advised Mr. Dorsey that it would not be competent to establish a bank at Norfolk under the title of the First National bank as there was one by that title there which went into liquidation in 1883, and that its corporate existence had not yet expired and it has now outstanding notes; also because there are now in operation in Norfolk two national banks and therefore it would be improper for a new association to be established under the title of the "First National bank of Norfolk." P. S. H.

NEWS FOR THE ARMY.

Complete List of Changes in the Regular Service.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—The following assignments to regiments of officers recently promoted and transfers of officers are ordered:

The leave of absence granted Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Cook, Fourth infantry, (then major, Thirteenth infantry) January 18, is extended one month. Leave of absence for one month on account of sickness is granted First Lieutenant Lawrence D. Tyson, Ninth infantry. The following named officers will report to the commanding officer at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., on the dates set opposite their respective names for duty at that depot for a two-year duty: First Lieutenant Frederick S. Foltz, First cavalry, May 14, 1892; First Lieutenant Stephen L. H. Slocum, Eighth cavalry, April 10, 1892; First Lieutenant Percy E. Tripp, Tenth cavalry, March 14, 1892. The travel enjoined is necessary for the public service. The superintendent of the recruiting service will cause thirty recruits to be assigned to the Sixth cavalry and forwarded under proper charge to such point or points in the Department of the Platte as the commanding general of the department shall designate.

MUST BE SILVER OR NOTHING.

Bland Declares Himself in Regard to Proposed Legislation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—There is a feeling of uneasiness on the part of the democratic members in the house over the condition of business in the house, and the disposition is to get together and agree upon a program of business. At present, matters are simply drifting along, and it is desired to bring order out of the confusion which prevails. The silver question is the most discouraging element. The tariff bills and the regular annual appropriation bills will soon demand a great deal of attention, and it is agreed there must shortly come a time when the program of business for some months to come must be settled upon if anything is to be accomplished. It is probable that the whole democratic policy will be considered at a caucus to be called soon and a program of action outlined as far as possible. The silver men all say they have no intention of antagonizing the tariff and other measures. They say, however, they will not consent that the tariff and other measures shall be used to prevent the consideration of a silver bill and if, as they do not believe to be the case, they should ascertain that is the policy of the promoters of the tariff bill, they will insist in season and out of season on taking up the silver question. Chairman Bland of the coinage committee said:

"I am in favor of tariff reform and considering the tariff bills, but if their program is to keep the tariff here always and not to do anything on the silver question, then we will consider them all together. There is no disposition against taking up the tariff providing we can have an understanding that it will not run as a machine to knock out silver. I have heard reports that the tariff is to be kept here, not for the purpose of passing a tariff bill, but to kill silver. I want it understood that I don't think there is any such intention, but if such intention should be disclosed, we will take the opportunity to force silver to the front and talk silver on the tariff and every other bill. If we find out this is the game, we have the way to meet it, and the silver bill as an amendment will be added to every bill which comes up. We don't intend that the minority shall run over the majority in that way and we have a majority in favor of the silver bill. The silver bill will not be kept down by any tactics of that kind. I shall not obstruct tariff bills, but we must know what is to be done about the consideration of the silver issue."

Western Pensions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—The following list of pensions granted is reported by THE BEE and Examiner Bureau of Claims:

Nebraska: Original—Charles E. Towne, Asa C. Wheat, Benjamin Conger, David Matten, Lebbens B. Woods, Gideon Hait, Julius O. Stone, George Cassell, Albert J. Brimblecom, Israel Wood, Henry E. Coleman, E. S. Warner, George W. Hyde, Sinclair Hill, Benjamin Phillips, Daniel Debaum, Johnson Campbell, Edmund McWilliams, Levi Pike, Asa Fletcher, George W. Boardman. Additional—Frances A. Hacker. Renewal—John Walsh. Increase—Thomas P. Hall.

Iowa: Original—Anson D. Long, Hiram G. Parish, John Davis, John Bishop, Zera S. Patterson, William H. Reynolds, Samuel Goodwin, James R. Davis, Samuel Mershon, Frank Gilbert, Leroy J. Whitney, Charles L. Warner, William Coppock, Robert Lusk, Francis M. Ellis, Charles N. Tryor, John Vale, William C. Atkinson, Montgomery Hamilton, Albert A. Lincoln, Albert J. Romey, Seth Bealge, John W McGinlay, Madison Rankson, James S. McCuiley, Clarkson C. Cloud, John H. McNeal, Jacob E. Myers, James W. Reese, James W. Winn, Lewis Renville, James T. Gray, Thomas Callahan, William Coleman, Hiram McGiosson, Charles Gartland, Peter Fisher, Charles H. Holliday, Jerome B. Carpenter, R. H. Young, William H. Brown, Daniel, L. Castle, Joseph N. Fleming. Additional—William H. Carter. Increase—Thomas Smiley, Anthonus J. Butin. Reissue—Noah Jacobs. Original widows—Casandra J. Fortuna, Mattie C. Chandler, Samantha A. Brokaw.

South Dakota: Original—Oscar M. Loomis, Thomas Hawley, Walter D. Greene, Alfred Fuller, Allen D. Carley, James Goodhawk. Original widows, etc.—Nancy C. Frink.

Millie Price-Dow, fair-haired, cameo-faced, wonderful-eyed, lithe and graceful, a vision of black, with swaying, lacy shirts, silken sash and twinkling feet. How she can dance! How those small, fairy slippers spurned the floor with the airiness of their toe tips. This is positively her last appearance at the Eden Musee. You can see her in the dance of sunny Spain.

MRS. BLAINE GETS HER DIVORCE.

She is Given the Custody of Her Child and Alimony.

DEADWOOD, S. D., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—Judge Thomas this morning awarded a decree of absolute divorce to Mary Nevins Blaine, from her husband, James G. Blaine, jr., the custody of the child, $1,000 with which to pay all expenses of the suit and $100 per month alimony. The decree was no surprise here. Mrs. Blaine and her maid and attorney, Judge Palmer, will leave for the east tomorrow.

Minton Divorce Case on Trial.

PARKER, S. D., Feb. 20.—The celebrated divorce case of Mrs. Charlotte Nicoll Minton against J. McKim Minton, editor of the New York Illustrated American, went to the jury at 9 o'clock last evening. The jury came in at midnight. Eight questions of facts had been submitted to them by the court and they found for the plaintiff in all but those as to habitual drunkenness on the part of the defendant, also foul disease. The jury was then discharged. The court reconvened at 9 o'clock this morning. The evidence of Mrs. Minton and Philip P. Safford, attorney for the defendant, was given to substantiate the deposition. The court adjourned at 11 o'clock to reconvene at Yankton in the chambers Tuesday morning, when the defense will fight the plaintiff's residence in South Dakota in order to knock out the divorce.

Millie Price-Dow, fair-haired, cameo-faced, wonderful-eyed, lithe and graceful, a vision of black, with swaying, lacy skirts, silken sash and twinkling feet. How she can dance! How those small, fairy slippers spurned the floor with the airiness of their toe tips. This is positively her last appearance at the Eden Musee. You can see her in the dance of sunny Spain.

Kept Two Sets of Books.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 20.—United States customs officials have seized the invoice books of Wempe Bros., importers of Japanese goods, and ascertained that during the past year the government has been defrauded out of about $15,000. The firm kept duplicate invoice books. The firm admits its guilt. The case has been referred to the secretary of the treasury.

Millie Price-Dow, the ruler of human hearts, whose marvelous dancing has set the town talking and scored a triumph unequaled in the annals of terpsichorean victories, makes her final appearances in the dance of sunny Spain this (her last) week at the Eden Musee.

Fire Record.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 20.—The four-story Weller block, 632 Fourth avenue, burned at midnight last night. The first floor was used as stores and the three upper as flats. Each floor was full of sleeping people, but all were rescued by the firemen. Loss, $25,000. Three firemen were seriously injured.

CRESTON, Ia., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—Mrs. James Myers, aged 95, oldest woman in Creston, and well known, died today.

PROMINENT BANKER MISSING.

Colonel O. M. Towner of Chicago is Believed to Be in Serious Trouble.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 19.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—A Chicago man has mysteriously disappeared from North Dakota. He is Colonel O. M. Towner, vice president and general manager of the Northwestern Farm Land company, a syndicate of Chicago capitalists, heavily interested in North Dakota farming lands and engaged in the German colonization scheme for growing barley. He disappeared three weeks ago. Towner was last seen January 29 in Minneapolis, where he paid his bill at the Windsor house. On that day he told Arthur Noyes, a Minneapolis attorney in the employ of the syndicate, that certain private business would engage him until the Monday following, when they would meet him and go to Chicago to confer with the syndicate at an important meeting.

Nothing wrong was suspected for several days, until it was learned from telegrams that he was neither in Chicago, Minneapolis nor North Dakota. Search was immediately instituted but without avail. Detectives were put on the case and every nook and corner of the Twin cities were searched, but absolutely nothing has been found. His friends advanced two theories, either he has been involved in some former transaction which threatens to cause him trouble and exposure and he prefers to hide rather than face it, or he has been murdered in cold blood. Major Hamilton of Grand Forks, N. D., the syndicate's attorney, who went to assist Mr. Briggs, a Chicago member of the company in the search, writes that all efforts have been fruitless and they have practically given up hope of unravelling the mystery.

[FROM YESTERDAY'S SECOND EDITION.]

SHE HAD LONG BEEN FALSE

Edward Parker Deacon Talks of the Tragedy That Has Ended His Home.

HE HAD EXPECTED SOME BAD END

Abielle and Mrs. Deacon Were Not Careful to Conceal Their Guilt—Details of the Affair as Gathered by the Paris Journals.

[Copyrighted 1892 by James Gordon Bennett.]

PARIS, Feb. 19.—(New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.)—The Herald's European edition publishes today the following:

The details supplementary to those cabled last night concerning the Deacon-Abeille tragedy at Cannes may be summarized as follows: Mr. Deacon is described by those who know him as a man of quick and violent temper, given to intemperance and subject to fits of low spirits. He and M. Abeille met about three years ago and soon became intimate, owing to a similarity of ages and character. M. Abeille's relations with Mr. and Mrs. Deacon were those of a friend. He visited them frequently, often calling several times on the same day.

Plans for the Winter.

It was arranged some months ago that Mrs. Deacon was to spend the winter at Cannes while her husband was going to America. Mrs. Deacon left Paris for the Riviera on February 1, and her four daughters with servants came on the next day. After his wife's departure Mr. Deacon left his residence in the Rue de Grenelle, Paris, and took rooms at the Hotel Windsor. Instead of leaving for America he started for Cannes last Sunday. I was informed at the Windsor that Mr. Deacon "buvait un peu," which may mean very little or a great deal.

There is no reason, however, to discount in a similar fashion an additional statement to the effect that Mr. Deacon was exceedingly violent in disposition. On one occasion, when the potatoes were not cooked to his liking, he flew into a violent rage, abusing the servants and smashing the glass door with his fist.

Mr. Kane of Cherbette, Kane & Co., the well known bankers of the Rue Scribe, who was Mr. Deacon's intimate friend as well as his banker, has received two telegrams from Deacon. The latter is couched in the following terms:

Satisfied With the Result.

"Last night I fired three revolver shots at Emile Abeille, whom I found in my wife's apartment. One ball wounded him in the thigh, the other in the chest, the third missed. I have been informed he died this morning. I have received tokens of sympathy from everybody. The magistrates have been kindly disposed toward me. The reasons which influenced me will, it would seem, exonerate me."

The dead man's two brothers, Albert and Adolphe Abeille, have left Paris for Cannes. The deceased's sister, the vicomtesse de la Redoute, is also at Cannes. She has a villa at Monte Carlo.

According to the latest dispatches there seems to be no doubt that Deacon found Abeille hiding behind an arm chair in the parlor adjoining the wife's bedroom. To the magistrate Mr. Deacon said he had been suspicious of his wife's fidelity for three years past.

Deacon is at liberty on parole and will not leave Nice without permission.

Later Details of the Tragedy.

Figaro this, Saturday, morning contains the following about the Cannes tragedy:

"The murder was not committed under circumstances hitherto reported. Mrs. Deacon made her husband believe Abeille had left Cannes, but still remaining suspicious of the guilty relations between them, the husband announced his intention of going to Monte Carlo. Instead he remained in Cannes all the evening and just before midnight returned to the hotel. He went to the door of his wife's room, overheard voices inside. Then getting a pistol and meeting the hotel manager he said, "Follow me." Then he forced his way into his wife's room and finding no one there except his wife, went into the adjoining parlor where he discovered Abeille hiding, not behind a chair as stated, but under a sofa. Deacon discharged three shots from his revolver under the sofa, severely wounding Abeille who, however, succeeded in getting away and returning to his own room in the hotel, where after great suffering of several hours' duration he died.

"After taking two employes of the hotel to witness that his wife's bed had been occupied by two persons, Deacon went to the commissaire of police and constituted himself a prisoner, declaring to the commissaire that he had long suspected his wife and felt that the affair would end badly, but that he had no intention of killing his wife's paramour.

"During the day Mrs. Deacon left the Splendide hotel with her children and is now at the Metropole. She refuses to see any one.

"It is said that a countess living in Paris, whom Abeille deserted for Mrs. Deacon, was about to bring an action for divorce with a view to marrying Abeille, and that this precipitated the drama. Abeille's mother has not yet been informed of her son's death. Owing to her great age the family fears the shock may have serious results."

NEW BOTANY BAY.

America the Catchall for the Criminals and Paupers of Europe.

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PARIS, Feb. 19.—(New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.)—A. A Hayes of New York, who has for years made the emigration question a subject of special study, said today:

"A distinguished Englishman recently said to me, 'The United States is now Botany Bay for England.' As far back as 1881 the land commission authorized the poor guardians to give £200,000 in order to ship paupers to America. The United States government protested in vain, but the paupers reached the United States just the same. The committee sent out over 8,000 paupers to the United States between 1882 and 1886.

"Another agency for the emigration of criminals is the London Prisoners Aid society. So far as I know they make no attempt to conceal the business they are engaged in. The Jewish board of guardians of London has shipped between 1882 and 1886 8,429 Jewish paupers, principally Russians. It seems curious that Baron Hirsch, after having made the statement to the Herald that he was going to send his Russian Jew emigrants to the Argentine Republic should be sending them to the United States.

"Sweden and Germany are regularly sending their criminals to America. Until recently Switzerland did the same, and it still requires all the vigilance of the American consuls in Switzerland to prevent this. As for Italy the fact is notorious that the worst criminals of that country are assisted to emigrate to the United States, and the number is increasing rapidly."

LETTER FROM LEO.

He Advises His Clergy in France to Submit to the Laws of the Land.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—The Catholic newspaper here published an encyclical letter from the pope addressed to the clergy. The pope declares that any form of government is good, provided it tends to further the public welfare and that it is therefore the duty of all to accept the legally established government and not attempt to change its form. But it is necessary, he says, to distinguish between established powers and legislation. The former must be obeyed, but legislation hostile to the religion of God, cannot be approved. The pope concludes by expressing himself in favor of the maintenance of the concordat and urging the union of all Frenchmen for the development of the greatness of France.

INDIANS IN COUNCIL.

Arrangements Being Made to Change Reservation Boundaries in South Dakota.

PINE RIDGE, S. D., Feb. 19.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—The council at this agency between the Rosebud and Pine Ridge agency Indians convened at 4:30 this afternoon. Major James A. Cooper, special agent, who acted as chairman, spoke as follows: "Brethren of the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations, we meet this afternoon for the purpose of a friendly talk and to explain matters pertaining to the dividing line between Rosebud and this agency. I am glad to meet and more than pleased to see the good feeling that predominates among you. The great father at Washington is anxiously awaiting the results of this meeting. I am free to say that I believe you are all, as he will be, entirely satisfied with what will be done. We have no desire to hurry you. Talk among yourselves. Take time to consider, so that when you come to the councils you can talk intelligently. Be reasonable in your requests of each other. We want you, the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Indians, to agree among yourselves and try and act as a unit. It is only by being reasonable that you can expect to obtain any good results. You have selected your most able men from both agencies to represent you. I see among you men that I am well acquainted with—men that I know will not be unreasonable in what they ask. This being a fact I see no reason why this matter cannot be adjusted satisfactorily to both you and the department at Washington. I thank you for your attention."

Swift Bear, from Rosebud, spoke as follows: "I am very old and have come a long way to see you. I am glad to see your people at Pine Ridge. We are all one. You white men are not any different from us. We are glad you have called us together. We don't want to talk much tonight, but will be able to talk to you and tell you what we want Monday."

Hollow Horn Bear, from Rosebud, said: "I only want to say a word. We came from Rosebud and to see you good people. We are here to do some business. You have sat in the council and looked at us. I don't like this. The dividing line is what we are going to talk about. You have told us we are going to have a council. When we get through we will put it all in your hands. We know you will do right and we are going to try and do right."

Major Wright, agent at Rosebud, spoke as follows: "I want the Rosebud Indians to get together and have a friendly talk with the Indians at this agency. Council among yourselves. Make up your minds what you want to say and report to us whatever is said. Whatever you want must be sent to the great father for his consideration and approval. Mr. Cooper is the man that represents the great father. He will report what you say and do."

Swift Bear spoke again as follows: "We want you to give us a feast. We want something to eat. We feel hungry. When we fill up we can talk better."

Captain Brown, acting agent at Pine Ridge, said: "I am glad to see you, my friends from Rosebud. I am also glad to see so many Indians from our agency. You will all be treated kindly and fair. I hope you will have a good time. Be friends and treat each other well. Your bodies at times are too small to hold your hearts. I am afraid of you bursting, but I don't feel like restraining you now. I am glad to know that you all are so well pleased and feel so happy."

The council adjourned until Monday.

TRIED TO WRECK A TRAIN.

Dynamite Placed Upon the Track—A Narrow Escape.

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., Feb. 19.—As the southbound passenger train on the Southern Pacific railroad was nearing Paso last night the engineer saw by the aid of the headlight a queer looking small object lying near the right hand rail. He paid little attention to it. When the drive wheels of the locomotive passed over the object there was a terrific explosion and the cab was enveloped in a sheet of flame. The insignificant object proved to be a heavy charge of a dangerous explosive. Fortunately the engine was a heavy one and held to the rails while the motion of the train carried it quickly over the spot. When the train slowed down sufficiently to permit the engineer to get down on the steps he was astounded to find the brake beams on the engine and express car trucks on fire. The train was stopped and the flames extinguished. A cry of