

# CURRENT EVENTS OF INTEREST TO IOWA.

## COUNCIL BLUFFS.

### MINOR MENTION.

Copier, Fire Ins., 6 Pearl, tel. 372.  
 Cooper Grocery Co., 323 Bway, Tel. 214.  
 Schmidt's has relief photos are the latest.  
 George F. Wright has returned from Colorado.  
 H. S. McIntosh left yesterday for Colorado Springs, Colo.  
 The Triple Link club will meet this evening in Hilde's hall.  
 Mrs. Mattie Lull of Hamburg was in the city visiting friends.  
 Miss Mary Southwick is visiting a school friend in FAU City, Neb.  
 Good work with less wear on goods is the process of the Bluff City laundry.  
 The Ladies Aid society of the Congregational church will meet at the parsonage this afternoon at 2:30.  
 G. Harris was appointed administrator to the estate of Sam Meyers yesterday. His bond was placed at \$10,000.  
 The funeral of Cornelius O'Brien will be held this morning at 9:30 from St. Francis Xavier's Catholic church. Interment in the Catholic cemetery.  
 We want you to feel that your package is in the hands of the carrier, and every effort will be made to please you at the Eagle Laundry, 724 Bway.  
 Mrs. Neban, aged 24, has been pronounced suffering from a severe attack of scarlet fever and her home at 2629 West Broadway has been quarantined.  
 Zed Bethers and Frank Kennedy were released from the county jail yesterday, after serving terms of twelve and fifteen days, respectively, for larceny.  
 Edwin S. McCarty of Kansas City and Mrs. J. H. Hershey and son of North Platte, Neb., spent New Year's day and Sunday with their parents on Fourth street.  
 W. C. Morris, who has been cited to appear in police court and explain a little difficulty he had with another man, secured a continuance yesterday morning.  
 All Odd Fellows are requested to meet at Odd Fellows' temple Wednesday morning at 10:30 to attend the funeral of Brother Sawyer of Silver City, Iowa, No. 403.  
 John Jackson, who has been under arrest for several days, charged with larceny in connection with an unauthorized visit to the store of William Wagon, was held in a hearing in police court yesterday, but asked for another continuance for the purpose of getting additional witnesses to prove his innocence.  
 Charles Williams, who complained to the police that J. G. Young had gotten the best of him in a game of cards and asked to have him arrested on the charge of gambling, released his complaint yesterday, and asked for another continuance for the purpose of getting additional witnesses to prove his innocence.  
 A game of basketball was played by two picked teams of the Dodge Light Guards at the armory last night. Two twenty-minute halves were played, and the final score was 23 to 22. The game was enjoyed very much by the teams and spectators. The company is contemplating organizing a team from its members to play the game in its best form.  
 W. W. McCarty, who has been cited to continue his case as special health officer of the city. The epidemic that threatened early in the season have been averted and there is no longer any danger of a serious outbreak. He will be laid off until next spring, when the annual cleanup is ordered unless circumstances make his services needed in the meantime.

### GOVERNMENT'S OWN NEGLECT

#### Whittlesey's Bondsmen Put Up a Most Peculiar Defense.

#### PORT OF COUNCIL BLUFFS OVERLOOKED

No inspection of accounts or affairs for years, during which time the business went on some way.

The bondsmen of R. N. Whittlesey, who are supposed to owe the government about \$1,800, say they are ready to make up the shortage when they are called upon, but there is still a large probability that the deficiency will not be made good until the responsibility of the bondsmen has been settled by the courts. The condition of the office and the manner in which the government looked after it is at least something remarkable. The bondsmen have called for all of the records of the office that are on file in the Treasury department. The demand has brought out the astonishing fact that there are practically no records to be found, and from all appearances, the government seems to have lost sight of the fact that Council Bluffs was made a port of entry a number of years ago.

When Whittlesey decamped a few weeks ago it was stated that there had been no inspection of the office since the first of last July. Later it was intimated that there had been no inspection for a year. Subsequent intimations were made that it had really been two years since an emissary of the Treasury department checked over the accounts of collector Whittlesey. The call for the records has shown that there has actually been no inspection of the office since the books and accounts were taken over by Whittlesey more than four years ago. The existence of the office and the liability of the bondsmen seem to have been completely overlooked by the department in Washington. A number of the responsible bondsmen had forgotten the fact absolutely that they were on the bond. One of them, however, recalled the fact about a year ago, and made a motion to the collector to look into the condition of the office, but the matter again passed out of his mind, and was practically the same as if it had never happened.

The collector, however, has not thought of the matter for several years. If an inspector had come around the fact would have been forcibly brought to the minds of the bondsmen and the collector, and this interest would have led to a friendly investigation and watchfulness that would perhaps have saved the young man and prevented the bondsmen all of the extensive annoyance and trouble that has arisen.

The bondsmen feel that under these circumstances there is a grave question concerning their liability on the bond. They believe that the plea of complete and permanent neglect on the part of the government to take any sort of cognizance of the existence of the office will vitiate the bond, especially when it can be so easily shown that this kind of neglect is not the custom or the rule of the department, and that it applies to custom house inspectors as well as to collectors.

The checking up of the office that has been going on since the shortage was discovered has not so far resulted in the discovery of any further discrepancies in the cash accounts of the collector, thus settling the rumors to the contrary that were in active circulation several days ago. The checking up is slow and tedious, and involves the necessity of hunting up evidence and imported goods that has been sent to the collector by the administration of Collector Whittlesey and charged to him, and then the books of the collector, thus settling the rumors to the contrary that were in active circulation several days ago.

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### PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

#### Alderman Casper Gets After the Telephone Company.

Alderman Casper, at the meeting of the city council last night, introduced an ordinance that means quiet for the Nebraska Telephone company if the ordinance should become a law. There has never been serious complaint in Council Bluffs on the score of excessive rental charges for telephones. The rate was voluntarily lowered by the company from \$2.50 per month to \$1.50 for business houses to \$2.50 and \$4. The question of exacting payment of more taxes from the company has been discussed in the council a number of times. It was intimated that the company had been very much surprised when Alderman Casper introduced an ordinance amending the present charter of the company by requiring the company to pay taxes on the city property color and fixing the rentals at \$1 a month for residence and \$2 for business houses. The ordinance awakened a good deal of discussion, but it was advanced along under the rules until it had reached its second reading and was subject to amendment, and it was then referred to a committee of the whole for further consideration.

The reports of the heads of departments were referred to the finance committee. The city street commissioner, H. E. Wagon, reported that he had received a letter from the Nebraska Telephone company, which had been pending for some time, was laid over, owing to the fact that the contracts with all of the companies in the city had been reviewed. It was of such a nature that they would have to be abrogated before the new ordinance could be passed, and it would be unfair to the city to do so. The committee, composed of Casper and Graham, to whom the ordinance was referred, reported favoring instructing the city attorney to prepare an ordinance amending the charter with the Nebraska Telephone company and that an ordinance be drawn providing a tax on all of the companies in the city, including the telephone company, and that the ordinance be referred to the committee for further consideration.

The clerk was instructed to call for bids for scavenger work for the coming year according to the ordinance now on file. A resolution to instruct the city treasurer to transfer \$4,000 from the police fund to the general fund, to be used in taking up general taxes, was referred to the committee for further consideration.

When the council came to the work of awarding the contract for the construction of a large ammunition battery, the work was a vigorous protest made by E. A. Wickham. The engineer's tabulation of the bids showed that the contractors offered to build the battery for \$100,000. Oliver Harlin is the son of John Harlin, city street commissioner, and Wickham charged that the contractor had offered the bid for a price lower than that of the other bidders and was using his office to advance his interests as a contractor, which was a direct violation of the city ordinance. The protest caused the matter to be referred to the committee of the whole. John Skinkie was awarded the contract for building the battery.

Henry Deercot, a man 83 years of age and in poor condition of health, has had his taxes remitted. The general taxes for 1897 were remitted on the showing made that he had been paying his taxes for the past several years and was entitled to the consideration asked.

The directors of Union driving park asked to have the taxes remitted. There was some objection to the semi-public character of the park, but the council agreed to use it, the council agreed to the request. The taxes amount to \$135, and have been remitted each year. The directors agreed to pay the taxes provided the park was leased for racing purposes this year.

The fire department was allowed \$80 to purchase supplies for the electrical department. The request was granted. The city was instructed to enter with the lighting company for the purpose of deciding upon a lighting schedule for the present year. Casper called attention to the fact that the city was in arrears for the payment of the city building gas company for lighting the city buildings, and the proper committee was instructed to look into the matter and arrange for a reduction.

Alderman Atkins introduced a resolution ordering the building on Broadway near Bryant street to be condemned and torn down. The building was in a very bad state of repair and was a fire hazard. The resolution was passed.

The following transfers are reported from the title and loan office of J. W. Squire, 101 Pearl street:  
 J. M. Patten and wife to Anna M. Rosenberg, lot 12, block 2, Gates' addition, c. d., \$500  
 George W. Ledy and wife to E. A. Hooker, lot 12, block 11, Potter & Eddy's first addition, w. s. 450  
 E. A. Blanche and wife to J. J. Prohr, lots 4, 5 and 6, block 17, c. d., \$2,500  
 J. J. Steadman and wife to Fritz Prohr, w. s. 2,400  
 Fritz Prohr and wife to E. A. Blanche, w. s. 2,400  
 W. B. Binder and wife to H. Abbott, trustee, part lot 5, block 5, Myer's addition, Court street, \$3,465  
 Claus Stamm and wife to August H. H. Valt, Brun, and wife, W. E. Haverstock and wife and T. J. James, trustee, w. s. 6,000  
 H. E. Haverstock, part w. s. 32, 35, 43, c. d., \$50

Eight transfers filed, total, \$17,122.

The justices of the peace have filed their annual reports with the county auditor, to be acted upon by the board of supervisors. Under the present law each justice is allowed all fees collected up to \$1,200, and must turn over all in excess of that sum to the county. A regular schedule of fees is fixed by law, and the justices cannot deviate from this schedule in taking up their collections above \$1,200. Justice Berling has only held his office for nine months, or since the death of Justice Cook. He has collected about \$400.

The Board of Commissioners met in the regular January session yesterday and spent the day in the usual preliminary work of the most business session of the year. The board organized by electing Colonel Baker chairman for the ensuing year. A good part of the day was spent in the examination of the bonds of the county officers. The heavy bond exacted from County Treasurer Arnold was clearly explained, and was found to be the strongest bond any other treasurer had ever given, and its approval was prompt. The bonds of Sheriff Morgan and all of his deputies were approved. The final report of County Superintendent Paulson was submitted and approved. The contract for printing blank books and the regular blanks used by the county officers in the Nonpartisan Printing company. The contract for same to be used in the Avoca court was awarded to the Avoca Herald.

The largest and most enthusiastic meeting in the history of the Woman's Christian association was held yesterday afternoon in the Royal Arctum hall. The reports of all officers were read and approved. There was some discussion in regard to the request of Mrs. Sarah J. Ballard, in which her Christian character and benevolence were praised. Resolutions of thanks were prepared and after being read were unanimously accepted and a copy ordered to be printed. In addition to the large membership there were present all the pastors of the city and their wives and the trustees of the Royal Arctum hall. The devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. G. W. Snyder and Mrs. W. S. Barnes. A duet was sung by Mrs. L. M. Wagon and Mrs. Mullis, accompanied by Mrs. Chamberlain. The following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. O. B. Divine; Secretary, Mrs. Laura J. Stewart; Recording Secretary, Mrs. M. G. Gainer; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. B. J. McBride; Treasurer, Mrs. George Pipe; Auditors, Mrs. E. A. Wickham and Mrs. W. E. Haverstock. These seven officers and three other women constitute the board of managers. The additional managers elected were Mrs. L. W. Wallace, Mrs. Sarah B. Rohrer and Mrs. W. W. Wallace.

After the election refreshments were served. A delegation of nurses from the hospital, newly arrived in the city, was present. While refreshments were being enjoyed the plans of the hospital were further discussed in an informal manner and the outlook regarding its successful completion. A resolution of thanks to the Royal Arctum for its kindness in donating the use of the hall for the occasion was adopted.

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### WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

#### Annual Meeting in Held and Officers Are Elected.

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### APPOINTMENTS BY SHAW

#### New Governor of Iowa Distributes a Job Lot of Plums.

Important. Salvation Oil, the greatest cure on earth for pain, is only 25 cents.

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### COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAKING UP OUTSTANDING BONDS.

#### NEW YORK CENTRAL FUNDING BONDS.

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### TRAVELERS OPPOSE ANTI-SCALPING BILL.

#### NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—The Commercial Advertiser says: P. B. Dove, president of the Commercial Travelers' National League, said today that his organization is prepared to vigorously oppose the anti-scalping bill now before the Senate. This bill prohibits the sale of railroad tickets by any one except the authorized agent of a railroad company. Mr. Dove disclaims any connection between his organization and the scalpers, saying that the league will not oppose any legislation directed against the business of scalping. He thinks the bill, if passed, will be a blow to the general business in passenger rates all over the country.

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