

DENY PROGRESS OF A FIGHT

Teachers' Association Members Say Politics Are Not Yet Apparent

CONTEST FOR PRESIDENCY COMING ON

A. H. Waterhouse of Omaha is Mentioned as Candidate—Alleged Effort to Discredit the Work.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Members of the Nebraska State Teachers' association complain that an effort is being made through newspapers to discredit the work of their organization by alleging that a bitter fight is already in progress over the election of a president to succeed W. S. Holman of Beatrice, whose term expires this year.

The story printed in two daily newspapers today about a wild and woolly political fight between the teachers' association and Lincoln for the direct benefit they receive from the reading and discussion of the papers and the educational topics of the day and they know nothing of the fond hopes and ambitions and wire-pulling of some thirty or forty of the school men of the state who usually put up at the two leading hotels in Lincoln until long after midnight, fixing up places that will be satisfactory to themselves and trying to get their feet on the home that they are in. These few hurt no one but themselves and injure nothing except the fair name of the association for good, sound work.

Some of the Candidates.

Among the men mentioned for the presidency are: A. O. Thomas of Kearney, D. C. O'Connor of Norfolk, E. J. Bodwell and A. H. Waterhouse of Omaha, J. D. French of Hastings, R. J. Barr of Grand Island, E. B. Sherman of Schuyler and G. A. Follmer of Pawnee City. It is expected that C. G. Pearce of Omaha will make an attempt to get control of the machinery of the association, and his support for the presidency will be given either to Mr. Waterhouse or Mr. Bodwell, unless it is demonstrated early in the convention that neither has a good chance for success.

WILL MUSTER NEW COMPANY

Marked Activity is Being Shown in Military as Well as Business Circles.

STANTON, Neb., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—The Stanton rifles are to be mustered in next Monday evening with fifty-two men. This company has been raised by G. A. Eberly, county attorney of Stanton county, and will start out with very flattering prospects of becoming one of the strong companies of the state. Over 50 per cent of its members served in the Spanish-American war, and have been drilling regularly for some time.

The new four mill is in operation now and is turning out flour of the finest quality. This is one of the best equipped mills in the Elkhorn valley and outside of Fremont is the largest.

The Nebraska Telephone company has just completed a local exchange here and will be ready for use tomorrow. It is expected the operators will be the busiest people in town for the next ten days.

The dynamo has been placed and most of the wiring done for electric lights, and the plant would have been in operation some time ago but for the delay in getting poles and a telephone system, about \$100,000 in other improvements have been made in Stanton during the past week, and the prospects are good for it to far exceed that next year. There is not a vacant house or store room of any sort in town. Real estate has been changing hands readily at prices ranging from \$40 to \$50 per acre, and there are really prosperous times in Stanton county.

HOLIDAY TRADE IS LARGE

Blair Merchants Reap Lucrative Harvest from Their Christmas Sales.

BLAIR, Neb., Dec. 25.—The merchants of Blair have enjoyed the best holiday trade that they have had for several years. Nearly every church held Christmas tree exercises last night. The Germania Verein of this city held their Christmas exercises tonight in the opera house. It is their custom at this time to have, in connection with their Christmas tree and program, a supper for their members, and their families, and a royal time was enjoyed this evening.

PAYS TRIBUTE TO DEAD WIFE

Beside the Grave Aged Man Tells His Friends of Deceased's Virtues.

JOHNSTOWN, Neb., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Another old settler was laid to rest today in the person of Mrs. George W. Wood, wife of the justice of the peace of Johnston precinct. She was 82 years of age. Her illness was brief. She leaves a husband and eight adult children. The funeral services were held by her pastor, Rev. Glascock, after which a most interesting incident occurred. The gray-haired, feeble husband arose as soon as the large congregation had taken their last view of their old friend and paid a touching tribute to the dead as a wife, a mother and a friend.

Young Farmer in Trouble.

PREMONTE, Neb., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Alfred Olson, a young farmer living at Swaberg, was arrested and brought before the county court yesterday afternoon on the charge of being the father of a 6-month-old child of Signe Matson. He did not make satisfactory arrangements for the child's support and was committed to the district court in default of \$1,500 bail for his appearance before the next term of the district court.

Assault of Minister.

PLATTSBOROUGH, Neb., Dec. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—At the close of the service in a church at Tabor, Ia., last Sunday evening

FIRE FIGHTERS OF JAPAN

A Pugnacious Lot, Notably Brave, Efficient and Extravagant.

PREFER A SCRAP TO A FEAST

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FULTON LOSES THE CONTEST

Fails in Its Effort to Get the County Seat from Its Rival Neighbor.

SIoux FALLS, S. D., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Alexandria has won the first round in the preliminary struggle between that city and the town of Fulton for the county seat of Hanson county. Soon after the county courthouse at Alexandria burned some weeks ago the ambitious citizens of Fulton decided that now or never was the time to enter the lists and if possible wrest from its rival the county seat prize. Petitions were immediately circulated, asking the Board of County Commissioners to submit the question of county seat removal to the voters of the county.

On their face the petitions contained the necessary number of signatures, but the commissioners deferred action until they could ascertain if all the signers were legal voters of the county. While they were doing this, the citizens of Alexandria were not idle, and succeeded in prevailing upon enough signers of the Fulton petitions to withdraw their names and leave the petitions without the required number of signatures.

The commissioners, at a meeting just held to consider the petitions and take action thereon, decided that, deducting those who had withdrawn their names, the petitions did not contain the necessary number of signatures. Hence the request of the Fultons has been officially denied. The citizens of Fulton declare they will continue their efforts, but just what step will next be taken has not yet been determined upon.

Railroad Improvements.

LEAD, S. D., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The Burlington railroad has suspended its grading operations here for the winter owing to the severe weather. The Elkhorn continues the construction of the extension from Deadwood into this city. Most of this work is in solid rock, which may be handled as easily in winter as in summer.

Ranchman Found Dead.

RAPID CITY, S. D., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Joseph Johnson, a ranchman living near town, was found dead in the road near his place Sunday. He was in town Saturday night and died late at night here. It is supposed he was thrown from his horse.

ROAD IS SOLD AT AUCTION

Duluth Transfer Railway Company Passes Under the Hammer in January.

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 25.—By the terms of a decree in foreclosure the property of the Duluth Transfer Railway company will be sold at auction January 2. The property comprises railway tracks, switching yards and right of way from the Union depot to New Duluth. Captain T. H. Pressnell has been designated as special master in charge to conduct the sale and his instructions state he is not to consider any bid of less than \$500,000. The company was originally bonded to the extent of \$1,180,000 and the amount of indebtedness is \$1,284,281.

ELLEN MORTIMER MARRIES

Actress Weds Claude A. Cunningham, a Chicago Music Teacher.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 25.—Miss Ellen Mortimer, who takes the character of "Esther" in "Ben Hur," now playing at the Alvin theater, was married today to Claude A. Cunningham, a music teacher of Chicago. The wedding was witnessed only by close friends and members of the company.

Patronize American goods, especially woolens, and you will be helping the like Cook's Imperial Extra Dry Champagne.

SUN SHINES ON NEBRASKA

Fair Weather to Be Followed by Light and Variable Winds.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Forecast for Thursday and Friday: For Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa—Fair Thursday and probably Friday; light, variable winds.

For Wyoming—Fair and warmer Thursday; Friday fair, variable winds.

For Colorado—Fair Thursday, with warmer in eastern portion; fair, variable winds.

For South Dakota—Fair Thursday; increasing cloudiness, snow or rain; northwesterly winds.

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For Montana—Fair Thursday; warmer in northern portion; Friday fair and colder; west winds.

For Missouri and Illinois—Fair Thursday and Friday; light southwest winds.

For Eastern Texas—Cloudy Thursday and Friday; light to fresh southeast winds on the coast.

Local Record.

Table with 4 columns: Date, Maximum temperature, Minimum temperature, Mean temperature, Precipitation. Rows for Dec 1901 and Jan 1902.

Reports from Stations at 7 p. m.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER.

Table with 4 columns: Location, Temperature at 7 p. m., Precipitation, Wind direction and force. Rows for Omaha, Plattsmouth, Lincoln, etc.

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FIRE FIGHTERS OF JAPAN

In a stroll through the city of Tokio, Japan, writes a correspondent of the New York Tribune, your attention is frequently arrested by what appears to be a gang of ordinary laborers engaged in laying the foundations of a new hotel. They are the most leisurely and deliberate workers ever seen. A "walking delegate" could find no fault with them and even a plumber might secure some points by watching their operations. They are working a pile-driver to the accompaniment of a tune, played upon the koto, popping the top at the end of each verse. The length of the verse is not so much designed to illustrate the poetry of motion as to insure the comfort of the operator. It results in sending the pile-driver at the rate of about one blow every five minutes. There is absolutely no chance for anyone to get excited. The dignity of deliberation characterizes the whole proceeding.

These men are not professional pleaders, however, but firemen. In Japan, it seems, these useful members of the community engage in building operations when not actually busy putting out fires. To one accustomed to the work of a well trained fire brigade maintaining its efficiency by constant drills, therefore, this shifting of occupation appears a trifle odd and as likely to interfere seriously with the morale of the service. Here it seems to have no effect. It is noted that the Japanese point of view is that if firemen were successful in preventing fires or minimizing their ravages their occupation as builders would suffer. Hence, also, the firemen are under suspicion—whether rightly or wrongly, I do not pretend to say—of sometimes neglecting their duty. The suspicion has some foundation. It is true, in the presents which many wards give regularly to the firemen and the contributions which wealthy merchants are in the habit of making to firemen's funds whenever a fire breaks out in their neighborhood, with the result, usually, that the fire doesn't reach the premises of the liberal and intelligent giver. On the other hand, these gifts are but a poor offset to the risks and dangers which the men run. More or less serious injuries are the rule at a Japanese fire and deaths are by no means infrequent.

A Scrupulous Crowd.

The average Japanese fireman is a punctilious individual. If all the accounts I have heard are correct he would rather fight than eat. His greatest pleasure is to pick a quarrel and brawl are a necessary element of his life. Until very recently he was almost invariably tattooed in gorgeous colors, the beauty of which was his constant boast. As a preliminary to the fight he would slip his clothes off his shoulders and make his opponent sick with envy at the sight of his wondrous tattooed figure. He had a peculiar habit of rolling up his tongue and giving a strong trill to his words. His favorite posture was to sit awkwardly, one knee up and a towel on his shoulders. This towel was an important article with him, for he could not summon sufficient courage for a quarrel unless it was tied tightly around his head, probably to secure his pate from being broken by his enemy's "club."

The "spirit" of the firemen, indeed, is said to have reached at times such heights that the government found it inconvenient to take notice of their peculiarities. Rather than risk a refusal to appear at fires the government closed its eyes to the brawls started by the firemen and in some of these fights is said to have taken part in which 381 firemen set upon sixty-three westerners in the precincts of a shrine in the western part of the city. The magistrate who was ordered to inquire into the case found it to be the wisest part of discretion not to do so.

DEADLY FILIPINO BOOZE.

Nerve Corroding Liquor that Drives American Soldiers Insane.

"Have you noticed in the reports of the casualties of our soldiers in the Philippines the fact that a large number of our men are 'insane'?" asked one of the soldiers who reached home recently on the transport Buford, quoted by the New York Sun. "Of course the total number of cases is small. It isn't generally known that the majority of our insane cases among our troops are the direct result of drinking vino, a native drink more poisonous than rank alcohol. The exact composition of the liquor I don't know, but the effect of it on the nervous system is such that one or two drinks of the stuff render men unconscious for hours at a time."

NEW CROESUS HAS ARRIVED.

A Mexican Who Has Acquired Fabulous Wealth in a Few Years.

In the way of mushroom millionaires our republic of Mexico is not far behind the United States. It is doubtful, indeed, if this country has ever had a parallel to Pedro Alvarado, who in one short year has risen from a penniless peon to a multimillionaire. Very naturally he is the sensation of the whole country.

IS IT AN EPIDEMIC?

Vital Statistics Show an Alarming Increase in an Already Prevailing Disease—Are Any Exempt?

At no time in the history of disease has there been such an alarming increase in the number of cases of any particular malady as in that of kidney and bladder troubles now preying upon the people of this country.

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