

BANKING GAINS IN DULL TIME

The statements made by the national banks of the country under the call of April 28, 1909, show that they had gained at that date no less than \$774,261,000 in total resources since the report of their condition made on May 14, 1908. That means an increase of nearly nine per cent, in a year which was marked by much industrial depression and no little discouragement in business.

The American Agriculturist is good authority, and that newspaper says regarding the outlook for corn, the country's greatest grain crop: "Every condition, both weather and financial, has tended to enlarge the breadth of this cereal, and the result is an acreage which not only surpasses all previous records, but is the largest area ever devoted to a single crop in any country in the history of the world."

One effect of the warm weather has been to promote the fruit and berry industry. The weather recently has provided great growing and ripening conditions, and the effect is plainly visible. The Delaware-Maryland peninsula, which is the seat of an immense strawberry-raising industry, reports a record-breaking crop.

Some men have the hortatory and correctional instinct so strong upon them that they are always wanting to rush out and expose an error or refute a fallacy, says the New York Evening Post. This goes with a highly developed oratorical temperament.

The treasury statement shows that the deficit in receipts of the national government at the end of the fiscal year just closed was \$59,811,000. The estimated deficit was \$114,000,000, so it seems that conditions have improved greatly during the last few months. The discrepancy is larger than is desirable, but receipts and expenditures are steadily getting nearer together, and anyway Uncle Sam has a handsome surplus left from former years to draw upon.

There is a little comfort for friends of American shipping in the news that a company running steamships to Hawaii has contracted with an eastern concern for three new vessels of large dimensions. These ships will be of American construction, operated by Americans under the American flag, and for this much the American people may be proportionately thankful.

POLITICS IN NEBRASKA

Republicans, Democrats, Populists and Prohibitionists Hold Conventions.

ALL HAVE GOOD ATTENDANCE

Proclamation of Principles as Set Forth by the Leading Political Organizations.

The republicans, democrats, populists and prohibitionists held conventions in Lincoln on the 27th, with good representations at all of them. There were upward of 800 delegates in the republican convention. C. O. Wheaton of Lincoln was chosen chairman and J. M. O'Neill, secretary. Resolutions herewith set forth the principles of the party.

The democrats met in Representative hall and adopted a platform to which only one delegate objected. Chris Guenther was nominated for Chairman of the State Central committee, but declined. The matter of filling the place was left to the state committee. George L. Loomis of Fremont was chairman of the convention and W. H. Smith of Seward, secretary.

The prohibition state convention consisted of five delegates, which attended to the necessary business. D. B. Gilbert of Fremont was elected chairman of the state committee, J. P. Heald, secretary, and J. L. Clafin, vice chairman.

Resolutions denouncing the liquor traffic and favoring a law and placing the referendum in full force and effect were adopted. In the populist convention at the senate chamber it was unanimously agreed that the party organization be maintained. Chairman Manuel called for an expression on this question as soon as the convention was called to order.

The republican platform. Speaking for the republicans of Nebraska, at their delegates in state convention assembled, and reaffirming the declarations of our national and state platforms, we are congratulated with the country on the magnificent republican victory which has given us for our chief executive that firm and courageous statesman, William Howard Taft.

We approve and indorse the Brown resolution adopted by congress submitting the several states for their action on proposed constitutional amendment to levy collect taxes on incomes.

The republican party in this state stands upon its record. While providing for generous maintenance and economical administration for the various state institutions, we cherish the state debt of more than \$2,000,000. We abolished the evils of corporate dictation in politics and abrogated the free pass laws under a republican administration.

Old Corn on Hand. Nebraska farmers and others have on hand 10,981,024 bushels of corn, more than they did at the same time last year. As shown by the reports of the various county assessors, the corn on hand last year amounted to 20,556,840 bushels, and this year the amount on hand is 41,535,874 bushels.

Decrease in Wheat Stocks. One of the surprising items in the returns of the county assessors to the State Board of Equalization is the large decrease in the amount of wheat on hand. Compared with the returns made a year ago, the decrease in the numbers of bushels on hand is over 70,000.

charge by Innuendo that republican judges are not to be trusted to perform their official duties without political bias according to their out-of-office, we resent the imputation. It will become the democrats to prate about a nonpartisan judiciary when the record shows that, when they had elected judges, they left no stone unturned to elect the third and fourth judges of the court consist wholly of their own partisan judges.

We, the democrats of Nebraska, in state convention assembled, reaffirm our faith in, and pledge our loyalty to, the principles of our party as set forth in the platform adopted by the democratic convention of 1908.

We particularly indorse the proposition that the United States senators be elected by popular vote. Present day conditions in the senate emphasize the importance of this reform.

Believing that the people have a right to have what they want in government, we favor the submission at the next session of the legislature of a constitutional amendment providing for the initiative and referendum.

Reasserting our purpose to give the people of the state of Nebraska a guarantee of bank deposits law, we call attention to the fact that the suspension of that law by the federal government, in violation of the treaty made by the democratic party of Nebraska in its 1908 platform, when it favored the enactment of such laws as may be necessary to compel corporations to submit their legal disputes to the courts of the state.

We indorse our successful business administration of a democratic governor and a democratic legislature for the enactment of the democratic platform pledges into law.

The democratic party, through its legislature and governor, sought to lift these positions of great trust and dignity out of the hands of the hands of professional politicians and place them permanently and securely on a non-partisan basis. But the republican party held otherwise.

Through its state organization it arranged surreptitiously a palpatory insinuation that the republican party was guilty of a great and far-reaching importance.

We urge the people of this commonwealth to take this question home with them. We urge upon them that the issue of the election be not one of party or platform, but of men.

We urge all Nebraskans in voting for supreme judges and for judges on the state supreme court, to vote for the candidate who is a democrat, and that no republican will vote for such a candidate because he is a republican.

Runaway Accident Fatal. Sutton—Dennis Lyhenne died at his home, southwest of Sutton, from the effects of injuries suffered in a runaway which occurred a little over a week ago. Mr. Lyhenne was 67 years old.

Prosecution Under Food Law. The deputy food commissioner has asked the county attorney of Saline county to prosecute Albert Fritz for the sale of five or six dozen rotten eggs. This practice is one that Commissioner Mains intends to stamp out.

State Board of Equalization. Attorney General W. T. Thompson has given an opinion holding the State Board of Equalization has authority to raise or lower the valuation of real estate belonging to railroad companies.

THE STORY OF JONATHAN MILLER

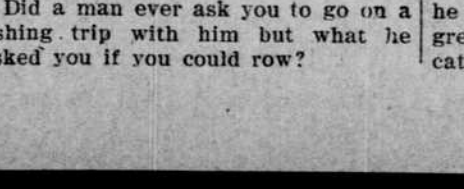
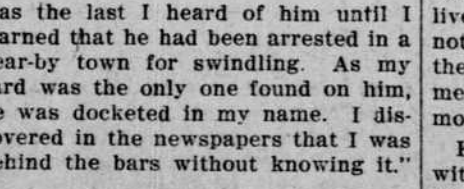
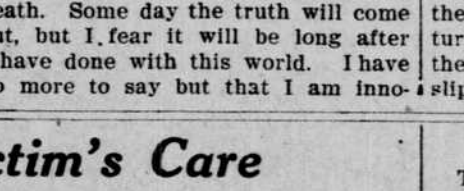
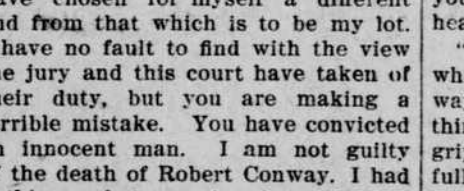
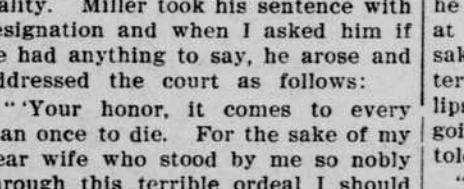
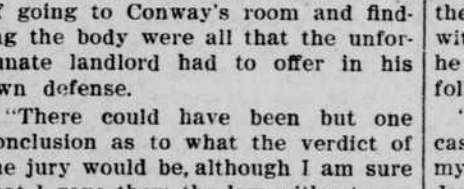
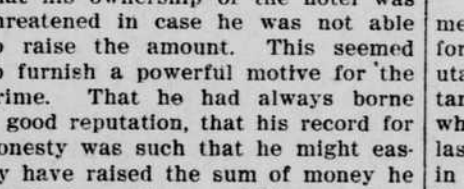
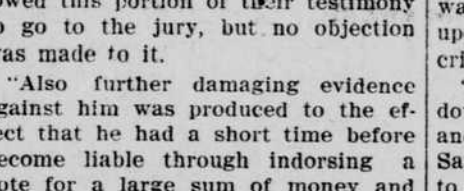
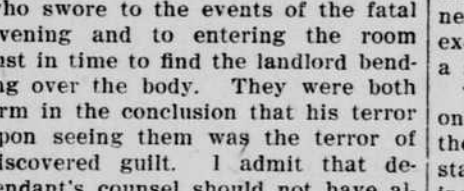
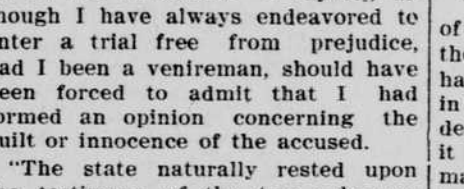
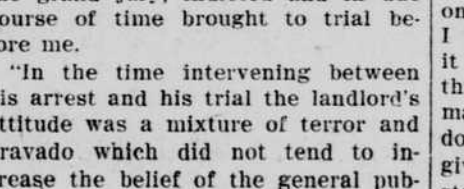
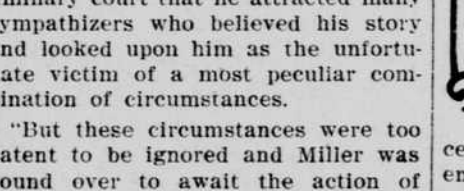
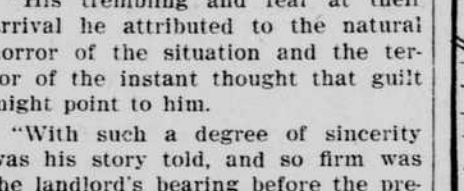
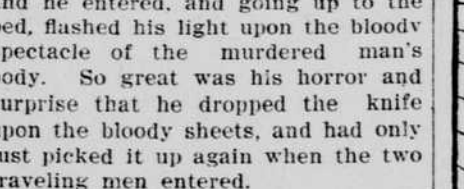
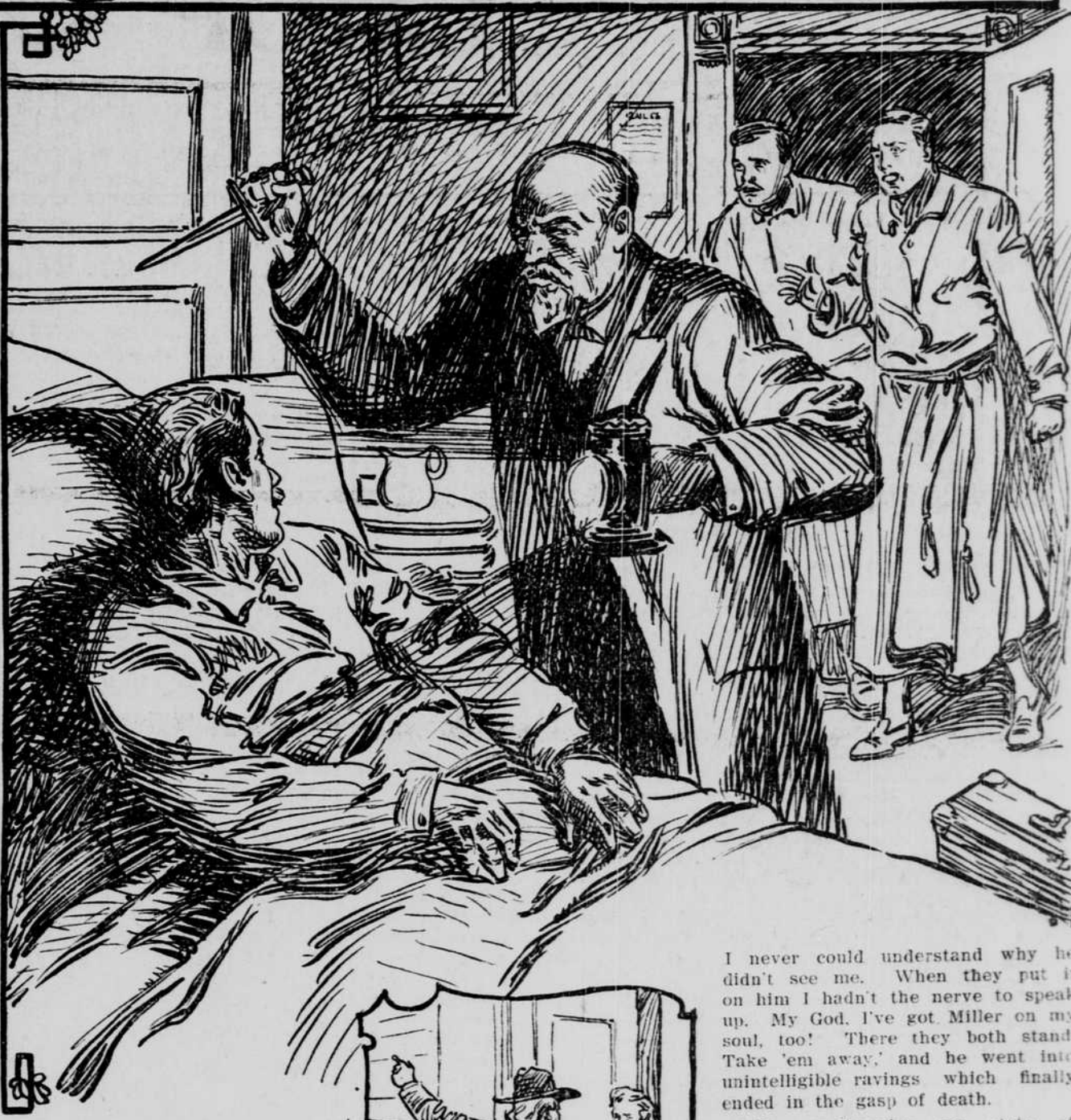
AUTHOR'S NOTE. The material facts in this story of circumstantial evidence are drawn from an actual recorded case, only such change of names and local color being made as to remove them from the classification of legal reports to that of fiction. All the essential points of evidence, however, are retained.

As the members of the Call Skin club dropped into their accustomed places Judge Dennett entered with a stranger of distinguished mien, and dignified bearing. His white hair and white mutton-chop whiskers betokened the country jurist of long experience whose reverence for the English bench caused him unwittingly to assume the formal appearance of a wearer of the wig and ermine of Blackstonian days.

"I often wonder," he said, "if there is a trial judge of any considerable experience who has not carried some one case as a load on his mind and conscience for years after the verdict of the jury is in and the condemned led away to execution. It is a wise provision of the law that makes the jury the judge both of the law and the evidence, and the judge but the medium through which the law reaches the twelve; and I cannot conceive the condition of mind of those early English judges, before whom, when they had arrived at a conviction of guilt, even the jury was powerless. It was from their arbitrary and unreasonable rulings, now happily not held within the power of the judge, that most of our records of miscarried justice have resulted."

"Within my own experience there has come one case which I believe is as strange as any of record and which for years, as I looked back upon it, caused me to doubt the ability of man ever infallibly to pass judgment upon a fellow creature. The parties now are all dead and I tell it for the first time. But to the story. "In a little city on the circuit in which I have held court for more years than I care to think of there was at one time a hotel kept by a very respectable man named Jonathan Miller. It was the favorite stopping place for commercial travellers and thus the most prominent and best paying hotel in the city.

"One evening a jewelry salesman by the name of Robert Conway arrived at the hotel just before supper. He instructed Miller to send his grips up to his room and remarked in the hearing of several at the desk that he did not care to have them left in the general baggage room as he was carrying a far more expensive line of samples than usual. He also asked that the door be carefully locked and the key brought to him.



I never could understand why he didn't see me. When they put it on him I hadn't the nerve to speak up. My God, I've got Miller on my soul, too! There they both stand. Take 'em away, and he went into unintelligible ravings which finally ended in the gasp of death.

"You can imagine my state of mind upon hearing this terrible confession. Was not Miller's death upon my soul as well? Was I not equally culpable for not having a keener insight into character that I might have read his innocence in his steadfast attitude? Many a long night as I walked the floor of my

and he entered, and going up to the bed, flashed his light upon the bloody spectacle of the murdered man's body. So great was his horror and surprise that he dropped the knife upon the bloody sheets, and had only just picked it up again when the two traveling men entered.

"His trembling and fear at their arrival he attributed to the natural horror of the situation and the terror of the instant thought that guilt might point to him.

"With such a degree of sincerity was his story told, and so firm was the landlord's bearing before the preliminary court that he attracted many sympathizers who believed his story and looked upon him as the unfortunate victim of a most peculiar combination of circumstances.

"But these circumstances were too patent to be ignored and Miller was bound over to await the action of the grand jury, indicted and in due course of time brought to trial before me.

"In the time intervening between his arrest and his trial the landlord's attitude was a mixture of terror and bravado which did not tend to increase the belief of the general public in his innocence. I myself, although I have always endeavored to enter a trial free from prejudice, had I been a vengeful man, should have been forced to admit that I had formed an opinion concerning the guilt or innocence of the accused.

"The state naturally rested upon the testimony of the two salesmen who swore to the events of the fatal evening and to entering the room just in time to find the landlord bending over the body. They were both firm in the conclusion that his terror upon seeing them was the terror of discovered guilt. I admit that defendant's counsel should not have allowed this portion of their testimony to go to the jury, but no objection was made to it.

"Also further damaging evidence against him was produced to the effect that he had a short time before become liable through indorsing a note for a large sum of money and that his ownership of the hotel was threatened in case he was not able to raise the amount. This seemed to furnish a powerful motive for the crime. That he had always borne a good reputation, that his record for honesty was such that he might easily have raised the sum of money he required on a loan, and his own story of going to Conway's room and finding the body were all that the unfortunate landlord had to offer in his own defense.

"There could have been but one conclusion as to what the verdict of the jury would be, although I am sure that I gave them the law without partiality. Miller took his sentence with resignation and when I asked him if he had anything to say, he arose and addressed the court as follows:

"Your honor, it comes to every man once to die. For the sake of my dear wife who stood by me so nobly through this terrible ordeal I should have chosen for myself a different end from that which is to be my lot. I have no fault to find with the view of the jury and this court have taken of their duty, but you are making a terrible mistake. You have convicted an innocent man. I am not guilty of the death of Robert Conway. I had nothing whatever to do with his death. Some day the truth will come out, but I fear it will be long after I have done with this world. I have no more to say but that I am innocent."

"Come, Buck, have it out and you'll go easier," I said as I held his head.

"Yes, Judge, I've got to tell it," he whispered. "It was me that killed Conway. Miller never done it. The thing took hold on me when I took his grips upstairs and he said they was full of jewelry. I slipped in and knifed him as he slept and got what there was in his pockets. I was just turnin' to the grips when I heard the landlord comin' down the hall. I slipped out and got past him, and

and Stripes waving defiance at the British guns from the tall staff on the parapet of the fort. This suggested the song to Key, and almost before the guns had been silenced he had written some of the inspiring lines which later were completed.

"Of Course They Are. "Shad is a fine thing." "So is marriage. Sometimes I wonder if either is worth the trouble."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

chamber I turned these questions over my mind, never finding an answer that was satisfactory to my conscience. I seriously considered resigning from the bench. My faith in man's justice had received a crushing blow. For five years I carried that weight of self accusing guilt, and only the sympathy of my friends and the loyalty and trust of my townsmen sustained me.

"One night I was seated in the study of Rev. Charles Poindexter, the rector of the Episcopal church. Before a cheery gas fire we talked into the night and to him I unburdened my soul.

"My heavens, judge," he said to me, laying his hand on my shoulder. "Why haven't you told me all this before? I might have saved you these years of troubling. Never before have I disclosed that which has been imparted to me in the confessional, but in this case I believe my duty to the living. When you sentenced Jonathan Miller you remembered that I attended him as a spiritual adviser in his last hours. To me alone he told the true story of that fatal night. He was guilty of Conway's death although his hand did not strike the blow. He went to Conway's room with the intent to murder him and rob him of his wealth. It was for that fell purpose that he took the knife and lantern. When he reached the room he found the deed already done, and even as the two traveling men entered the room he was meditating upon how he might secure the contents of the satchels and hide them. Let your mind rest, judge; his hand was as guilty as the hand that struck the blow!"

"This was the weight of years lifted from my mind, and this, gentlemen, is my story."

Amid the congratulations and thanks of the members of the Call Skin club Judge Grower from the chair announced that Judge Sturges had a story for the next meeting. (Copyright, 1909, by W. G. Chapman.)

America's Famous Song. The author of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was Francis Scott Key, who lives in American history as one of its notable figures. The inspiration for the song came from the bombardment of Fort M'Henry, near Baltimore, by the British fleet.

Key had been taken prisoner and witnessed the bombardment from one of the British men-of-war on which he was detained. As the battle progressed the American patriot could catch fleeting glimpses of the Stars

Used His Victim's Care. "It's a good rule never to give your card to a beggar who promises to return your loan of 50 cents or one dollar," remarked a New York clergyman the other day. "Not long ago," he continued, "a man in clerical clothes called on me, presented the card of a minister out on Long Island, and borrowed enough money to get home on."

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