

# NEBRASKA IN GENERAL

## FIRES IN NEBRASKA CITIES.

### South Omaha and Beatrice Suffer Considerable Damage.

The big sheep barns at the Union stock yards in South Omaha were totally destroyed by fire Thursday. It is estimated that the loss will be a little over \$50,000, fully covered by insurance.

Just how the fire started has not been ascertained. One of the employees discovered the blaze and immediately sounded the alarm. Before any of the firemen arrived the entire main structure was in flames and great clouds of black smoke rolled lazily away towards the south. The smoke attracted the attention of people all over the city and within half an hour after the flames broke out the yards and surrounding fences were almost black with people.

The main structure was 700 feet in length, 160 feet in width and thirty feet high. It was constructed of timbers and was sheathed on the outside with corrugated iron. The flooring was of vitrified brick. This building was erected several years ago. Last year the stock yards company found a need of increased capacity and erected an addition 200 feet long by 200 feet in width, thirty feet high, south of the big barn. This building was similar in construction to the other and was also destroyed.

At the time of the fire 993 head of sheep were confined in pens in the big barn. When the alarm was given some of the men at hand hustled out 500 head into the alleys and these were saved, the balance were smothered to death.

**BEATRICE.**—Fire originating in the basement of Day's drug store, in the Masonic temple block, totally destroyed the entire block and contents. Conservative estimate places the loss at \$150,000.

The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin. The flames spread from the basement to the floor above, and before the arrival of the fire department was beyond control.

The Beatrice National bank, Trevitt, Mattis & Baker, private bankers, Day's drug store and a number of lawyers, insurance agents and real estate men occupied the building.

The fire was discovered by Judge Callison, who roomed over the drug store. He was awakened by the smell of smoke and, although crippled by rheumatism, managed to crawl to a window, break the glass and call for help.

His cries were heard by the printers in a nearby printing office, who turned in the alarm and rescued him.

### UNITED AFTER MANY YEARS.

#### R. G. Backus Finds Daughter After Long Separation.

**PLATTSMOUTH.**—There is connected with the life of Mrs. Agnes Liebershal, formerly Miss Agnes Backus of this city, a story which reads like fiction.

Mrs. Liebershal's mother died six months after the former was born, and her father, R. G. Backus, after placing his child in the keeping of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McCarthy of this city, drifted out into the world to seek his fortune, and not from that day until recently did he hear anything directly from his daughter.

Then he received a letter from her addressed to Cincinnati, O. He immediately answered it, expressing his great pleasure at hearing from her and stating that he had written many letters to relatives and others in Platts-mouth inquiring about her, but for some unknown cause these letters were unanswered and he had been kept in ignorance as to whether or not the child was still alive.

Mr. Backus arrived the day before Christmas and is spending the holidays with his daughter. He is a representative of the Cincinnati Times-Star and from general appearance is a very happy man. His daughter was married about six months ago to Antonio Liebershal, a cigarmaker.

### Ten-Year-Old Boy Suicides.

Adelbert Lemon, the ten-year-old son of Rev. H. A. Lemon, of Bethany, state evangelist of the Christian church, with self-destruction in his childish mind, on the day before Christmas placed a rifle against his body and fired. The bullet passed entirely through his abdomen, severing the internal organs in many places. After telling his sorrowing parents that he did the deed on purpose he submitted to a surgical operation without sign of faltering and died from hemorrhage and the shock.

He was a bright, intelligent boy, a model son, whose life had a short time before been bubbling over with Christmas joy. On his death bed he said he had been considering the deed for several weeks. He gave no particular reason why he had thought of such an act.

A row of seven frame buildings in the business center of Culbertson was destroyed by fire.

The annual meeting of the state bar association will be held in Omaha January 8 and 9.

The state bank at Surprise was entered Tuesday night, the safe blown open and \$2,200 stolen.

The first train on the new Union Pacific extension from Cedar Rapids to Spaulding was run Tuesday.

Mrs. Bernard Dolan, an elderly Lincoln woman, was found in the ice of Salt creek, frozen to death.

William Zepin, a prominent young man of West Point, slipped on the ice and fell, dislocating his neck. He died a few hours later.

Livestock Agent Upton of the Burlington says the recent storms in the range country of Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota have caused no great losses to stock.

Adams county has paid off \$25,000 of the bonds held by the state, leaving \$100,000 in bonds still in the hands of the state treasurer. Another block will soon be taken up.

Mrs. Lena Lillie has been arrested, charged with the murder of her husband, Harvey Lillie, who was mysteriously killed while asleep in his home at David City two months ago.

The papers in Mexico City all comment on the arrival of W. J. Bryan, but it is understood that his visit is merely one of pleasure and recreation, he being accompanied by his family.

It is authoritatively stated that Governor Mickey will make no appointments to the positions of adjutant general of the Nebraska National guard and state oil inspector until next spring. Several candidates are making a lively scramble for these positions.

Charles S. Young, formerly assistant general advertising agent of the Burlington, has been appointed general advertising agent of the Milwaukee with headquarters in Chicago. Mr. Young was formerly a reporter in Omaha. His advancement in the railway world has been rapid.

Two unusual marriages occurred at Ainsworth Christmas week. The contracting parties in one were Levi Lindquist and Miss Grace Hagerman, the groom weighing a little over 100 pounds, while the bride weighs 320 pounds. In the second marriage Caleb Hively, aged 72 years, was united in marriage to Mrs. Anna E. Sopher, aged 67 years.

An interesting suit will soon be started in Lancaster county, wherein the county commissioners will seek to compel County Judge Waters to pay into the county treasury fees which he has collected for performing marriage ceremonies. Judge Waters insists that he is just as much entitled to the fees for performing the marriage ceremony as are the ministers of the gospel who perform them.

J. H. Hadkinson of Omaha has been appointed head gardener for the department of horticulture in connection with the world's fair. Mr. Hadkinson is a native of England and studied gardening in that country. He had charge of the gardening at the Omaha exposition and of Nebraska's horticultural exhibit at the Pan-American. For two years he was secretary of the State Horticultural society of Nebraska.

## NEBRASKA CATTLE ALL RIGHT.

### State Official Makes Investigation and Reports Favorably.

**LINCOLN.**—State Veterinarian Thomas, who has just returned from Scotts Bluff county, reports that after a critical examination into the conditions prevailing in the western end of the state he finds the cattle industry in excellent condition. This tends to relieve the alarm that has been created by the reports sent out to the press concerning the condition of the ranges in Wyoming and Colorado. The snow injures the grass for forage purposes to a certain extent, but the Nebraska ranchmen are awakening to the need for exercise of more foresight and less dependence on providence to safeguard their herds and keep them through the winter. He saw much stacked hay that had been put up in preparation for the winter. He did not see any herds that appeared to be suffering from the stress of the weather and heard no stories of distress among the ranchmen on the Nebraska side of the line.

Much interest is being stirred up in the state university at Lincoln in anticipation of the preliminary debates next month. The university will hold debates with Colorado at Denver, Kansas at Lawrence, Kan., and Missouri at Lincoln early in May.

John Gotte, a well-to-do Kimball county ranchman, is believed to have perished in the recent storm. He left his ranch to look up stray cattle. Nothing has been seen of him since. Three days after his departure his horse returned alone.

## THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City.

### SOUTH OMAHA.

**CATTLE.**—Receipts of cattle were very light so that it only took a comparatively short time for practically everything in the yards to change hands. Buyers took hold quite freely and the market was active from start to finish.

About the usual proportion of the receipts consisted of cornfed steers and some of the cattle showed considerable quality. As high as \$3.50 was paid, which is the highest price in some little time. They were western cattle, but were good and fat. As a general thing the market did not show much change from Wednesday, but sellers were calling it all the way from barely steady to strong. It was evident that packers did not like the idea of paying the prices asked, but as they had to have a few cattle, the kinds that suited them sold to good advantage, while the kinds that did not strike them as favorably were hard to dispose of at steady prices.

The cow market was active and stronger from start to finish. Buyers were all out early and bought up everything that was offered in good season. The prices paid looked all the way from strong to a dime higher. Bulls, veal calves, and stags also sold at fully as good prices as were in force last Wednesday.

There were very few stockers and feeders in the yards and not many were wanted. Speculators were not looking for much and as a result they did not want any cattle unless they could buy them lower. The market could probably best be described by calling it slow and weak.

**HOGS.**—There was a light run of hogs here and besides that about 18 cars were consigned direct to local packers and red offered on the market. Packers all needed fresh supplies and the market advanced right close to 10c. Packers started out bidding only about a nickel higher and a few hogs sold that way, so that the general market was 50c higher. The bulk of the sales went from \$6.32 1/2 to \$6.37 1/2.

**SHEEP.**—Owing to the destruction of the sheep barn by fire Christmas morning the sheep that arrived were yarded in the new hog division. The pens are well covered, so that the sheep are given as good protection from the weather as though they were housed in the regular barn. The capacity is sufficiently large to handle all the sheep that will arrive for the next several months, so that patrons of the market will be given the same service that they have always received.

There were only six cars of sheep and lambs on sale and the quality of the most of them was rather inferior. Three cars of Mexican ewes that were in just fair condition brought \$3.55 and some western ewes sold at \$3.00 and western wethers at \$4.00. Considering the quality the market was pronounced steady to strong and everything sold in good season.

There were not enough feeders on sale to tell anything about the market, but being so near the end of the week, there were not many buyers in sight. Quotations for fed stock: Choice lambs, \$5.00@5.25; fair to good lambs, \$4.50@5.00; choice yearlings, \$4.00@4.50; fair to good yearlings, \$3.75@4.00; choice wethers, \$3.60@4.00; fair to good, \$3.25@3.60; choice ewes, \$3.50@4.00; fair to good, \$3.00@3.50; feeder lambs, \$3.00@4.00; feeder yearlings, \$3.00@3.50; feeder wethers, \$2.75@3.25; feeder ewes, \$1.50@2.25.

### KANSAS CITY.

**CATTLE.**—Receipts, 2,000 head, including 400 head Texans; stronger; native steers, \$3.25@3.60; Texans and Indian steers, \$3.00@4.25; Texas cows, \$2.50@3.00; native cows and heifers, \$1.50@4.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.00@4.25; bulls, \$2.25@4.00; calves, \$2.75@3.25.

**HOGS.**—Receipts, 5,000 head; strong to 6c higher; bulk of sales, \$6.30@6.45; heavy, \$6.25@6.50; packers, \$6.10@6.37 1/2; medium, \$6.25@6.45; light, \$6.17 1/2@6.35; Yorkers, \$6.20@6.35; pigs, \$5.50@6.00.

**SHEEP.**—Receipts, 1,000 head; stronger; muttons, \$3.00@4.10; lambs, \$3.60@5.45; range wethers, \$3.00@4.00; ewes, \$3.00@4.20.

## MORE MONEY FOR MITCHELL.

### Leader of the Miners Will Have His Salary Increased.

**INDIANAPOLIS.**—A motion will be submitted to the convention of the United Mine Workers increasing the salaries paid the president and secretary. At present Mr. Mitchell receives \$1,800 and Mr. Wilson \$1,500.

The miners are looking forward to securing increased pay for themselves and want their executive officers to share their profits.

It is said the convention will be the largest ever held by the miners, as over 1,200 delegates will be present, as against 1,000 last year.

### Railroad Building in 1902.

**CHICAGO.**—According to the Railroad Gazette, railroad building in the United States for 1902 aggregated 6,026 miles, a total not exceeded in any year since 1888. Second track, sidings and electric lines are not included. Oklahoma leads with 570, Texas comes second with 496, Arkansas is third with 371 and Indian Territory is fourth with 363 miles.

Twenty thousand coal miners in the Connellsville coke regions, Pennsylvania, will have their wages increased 8 per cent January 1.

### Simple Funeral for Bishop.

**LONDON.**—The remains of the archbishop of Canterbury were removed from the archiepiscopal palace at Lambeth to Canterbury for interment. There was no display. The body was taken to the railroad station in a simple hearse, followed by carriages containing relatives of the deceased. A surpliced choir sang an anthem at the station as the coffin was placed on board the train.

## THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Gen. Reyes, Mexican minister of war, has resigned.

An anonymous admirer of Abraham Lincoln is going to place busts of the great war president in every public school in New York city.

Indications are that the convention of the National Live Stock association to be held in Kansas City in January will be very largely attended.

After General Miles, General Young will be lieutenant general five months and then General Chaffee will serve about two years at the head of the army.

Every employe in the clerical department of the Chicago & Alton railway has been granted an increase of 10 per cent in wages, dating from December 1.

Charles E. Osborne, formerly a country newspaper man in Wisconsin, has been offered \$2,000,000 for an iron mine in Ontario, of which he is the principal owner.

Winnie O'Connor, a young jockey, will get \$25,000 a year for the next three years. He will ride on foreign tracks for Baron de Rothschild and M. De Bloch.

Mrs. George A. Graves of Ogden, Utah, has just received a check from the United States government for \$250 in settlement of a claim that has been pending for 105 years.

Societies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the different countries have been amalgamated into one body, whereby all will be brought under the same governing board.

A pool room in Hot Springs, Ark., was wrecked the day before Christmas by an explosion of gasoline, resulting in the death of two men and serious accident to several others.

Newton Thorp is designing the monument in Union square, San Francisco, which will be erected to commemorate Admiral Dewey's victory of Manila bay. It will cost about \$47,000.

When the Missouri Savings bank balanced its public schools account last week, the books showed that the 1,239 children who have accounts there had \$12,159.64 to their credit. This is just about \$10 apiece.

For the second time in fifteen years President Roosevelt did not act as Kris Kringle in person at the Cove school, Oyster Bay, where his children were taught prior to his elevation to the head of the nation.

Emperor William spent Christmas in his usual way. His majesty took a walk in the afternoon in the Sans Souci park, Berlin, and distributed bright gold pieces fresh from the mint among the gardeners and watchmen.

The Missouri supreme court has denied the Wiltmer school of magnetic healing of Nevada, Mo., a rehearing in the suit against C. M. Bishop for libel. The court holds that the business is not legitimate and that the company is not entitled to the protection of the libel laws.

The cabmen of St. Louis went on a strike Christmas eve. As a result, the street cars have been providing transportation to many people who usually patronize the cabbies. Seventeen funerals on Christmas day were deprived of carriages and the mourners went to the cemeteries in the street cars.

Ex-Chief Ispardhecher, of the Creek Indians, died suddenly tonight at Okmulgee, I. T., at the age of 90 years. He had been prominent in Creek affairs for three score years and has been connected with every treaty of importance between the United States government and the Indians during that time.

J. Pierpont Morgan has been summoned to appear in the district municipal court to answer in a suit brought against him for \$250 damages. The claimant, a tenant in a house owned by Mr. Morgan, asks these damages on the ground that he caught a severe cold through the house not being heated, owing to the lack of coal.

It is stated on good authority that Grant G. Gillett, the fugitive Kansas cattle king, who has been in Mexico for more than three years, has gone to New York to perfect a mining deal. Since taking refuge in Mexico Gillett has not recrossed the border into the United States, but has turned his attention to mining. His recent rich strike near Chihuahua has made him a millionaire again.

The members of the Studebaker family of South Bend, Ind., have decided to mark the anniversary of the death of Clem Studebaker by giving to the Epworth hospital in their city \$50,000 in addition to former gifts for a hospital building.

The great grandfather of Mrs. Mary Jane Pairo, who has just died in Baltimore, was a member of the Boston tea party, and in her home hangs the mirror which hung in the hall of the house from which the Boston tea party started on its expedition.

Robert S. McCormick, retiring United States ambassador to Austria, will have his farewell audience with Emperor Francis Joseph on December 29. He will then leave Vienna for St. Petersburg to assume the duties of American ambassador to Russia.

## "BEN HUR" COMING TO OMAHA



No dramatic spectacle ever presented on the stage in this country has aroused the favor that Klaw & Erlanger's stupendous "Ben Hur" has created wherever it has been seen. It comes to Omaha next week for eight performances, and large crowds will no doubt attend from this vicinity. The production is a notable one in every way. In all, 350 people are required, twelve horses and three camels are used in the chariot race and the "Star of Bethlehem" tableaux and seven carloads of scenery and effects are carried complete. The company travels in two special trains, each composed of three parlor coaches and four tourist cars, and altogether it is considered the most pretentious and massive undertaking ever attempted in America.

For the convenience of out-of-town patrons, special reduced rates and additional train accommodations are announced on all roads during "Ben Hur" week and mail orders for seats are carefully filled in the order they are received, when accompanied with remittances.

### Arabian Coffee.

The Arabian coffee-maker, having prepared his fire of charcoal, and placed it near a huge pot containing water, takes a few handfuls of green coffee berries, carefully culls out all imperfect berries and foreign substances, and then places the best of the berries in an iron ladle held over the fire. The berries are permitted to roast until they begin to smoke and are then, while still uncharred, placed in a small mortar and carefully brayed with a pestle closely fitting the cup of the mortar. The berries are not, however, reduced to a dust. While this process has been going on a small pot has been half filled with tepid water from the large pot and placed over the fire. When the water in the small pot has begun to boil the broken small pieces are thrown in and the coffee berries are permitted to go on for a boiling is permitted being stirred short time, the decoction shows signs of with a spoon when it is then poured into a small cup without cream or sugar.

### Fisherman's Strange Catch.

While trolling for bass the other afternoon, near San Francisco, J. Brunz felt a tug at his line and squatted himself for a battle with his finny prisoner. The struggle was a royal one, and Brunz sighed with relief when he was finally able to haul in the line and bring the fish alongside the boat. As it came to the surface, however, the start which he experienced nearly caused him to let go the line and snatch at an oar in self-defense. In weight the fish tipped the scale at five pounds. The body fins and tail were those of a striped bass, but the head resembled that of a seat, with an under jaw projecting in front at least an inch beyond the upper. Brunz has been an enthusiastic fisherman for years and has seen all forms of denizens of water, both fresh and salt. He and his associates assert that it has never been their misfortune to hook such a monstrosity hitherto.

### Remarkable Monolith in Chili.

A remarkable monolith, more than 5,000 feet in height, was recently discovered in Chili. The base of this stupendous undersea needle is barely 240 feet in circumference, yet it rears itself, solitary and alone, to the height of nearly a mile, its culminating point a flat, circular surface no bigger than a cartwheel, reaching to within less than 600 feet of the surface. No such natural phenomenon, on any such stupendous scale, could possibly stand alone on dry land freed from its supporting and protecting envelope of perfectly still water. But even supposing that it were possible to lift it bodily from the depths of the ocean, and set it up on land, storm, heat and frost would cause it to crumble to pieces in a very few years.

A London newspaper man, said to be capable, was suddenly called upon to write an obituary of Bret Harte. With a mind full of something else—we are not told what—he wrote a column and a half and sent it to the printer. When it came back in proof he was horrified to find that he had written a lengthy article about Mark Twain. It was too late to re-write the obituary and he was obliged to change the name and the titles of the books and let the article go in.

### The Champion Liar Turns Up.

Such a long time has elapsed since anything has been heard from Joe Mulhaxton, "the world's champion liar," that he is generally supposed to have been dead for years. Therefore when he suddenly turned up in New Orleans a few days ago his friends greeted him as one returned from the dead. He has been mining in Arizona for eight years, and in all that time has been practically lost to the world. "A number of new liars have appeared during my absence," says Joe, "but they had better look to their laurels, I am tired of mining and will now take to lying again."

### Wax from Trees.

The wax palm of the Andes is a vegetable wonder. It grows to a height of nearly 200 feet and thrives not only on the plains but the mountains. The wood is tough and durable and is employed in carpentry. The wax comes from the pits between the trunk and fronds. It is yellow or grayish white, is as pure as beeswax, and is used for making candles. A "peon" climbing the tree can gather from 20 pounds to 30 pounds from each.

### A Heathen Rite in Russia.

A curious account is given in a Kazan (Russia) paper of a heathen sacrifice recently offered up to idols in a Chuvash village in the Province of Kazan. Contributions of butter, milk, salt and meal were requisitioned by the priests from the villagers, and on a propitious day the whole people turned out to the river bank where prayers were offered up to the gods for rain, and a swallow, having been caught and smeared with butter, was released to "fly upwards to carry our prayers to the ears of the gods." The proceedings closed with a feast, after which the priests began pushing one another into the water, and then flinging water over the assembled crowd. The story is baldly told, without the least interest in what appears to be some relic of old-age ceremonial which may be worthy of the attention of the learned in such matters.—London Standard

### An Insectivorous Illuminator.

Here is an insect that carries a lantern at night. It is called the "lantern fly," and is found in South America.

Its huge head is hollowed out into a chamber, and papery tissue, painted red



and yellow, like a lantern. At night—the fly is nocturnal in habit—the head is illuminated like a lantern, affording quite a brilliant light.

### Frenchman For His Tomb.

An eccentric gentleman named Chaplain has just at Monhondou, in the Department of the Sarthe, France. He was rich, and had caused a monument to be built on a piece of land in the cemetery.

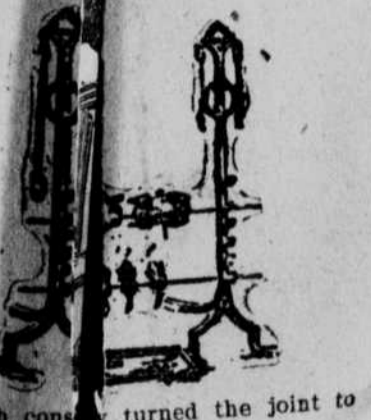
In this tomb he (or twenty years past spent severals a day, often sleeping there, as he said, to get used to future dwelling-place.

At this house the coffin in which he was buried, and used it as a bed, was invariably had his winding sheet thrown laid on the table in the room in lieu of a tablecloth on the Express.

### Clutter.

It is not generally known that in many parts of the world clay is eaten on bread as a substitute for butter. This is termed "clutter," and is used in many of Germany. In northern parts of Sweden, earth is often baked and, and is sold in the public markets on the Italian peninsula as well as on the island of Sardinia, Persia and other tropical countries. "Clutter" says its practice proved its origin in the knowledge that earth has some kind of flaved take the place of salt, a necessary ingredient in all kinds of food.

Before the invention of ovens meat was roasted on a spit as here shown, which consisted of a long pole turned the joint to the fire.



For the time in the history of Yale unweavered a president who entered active days as a member of the team, played against the team, but Mr. Hadley de onist. He attended in conventional attire and proved to be an easily in straight sets. He was not so successful and died at the close.