

SHIP IS SINKING

JAPANESE AMEND DISPATCH OF DESTRUCTION OF SEVASTOPOL DAMAGED BY TORPEDO BOATS

Assault Made by the Flotilla in Face of a Driving Snowstorm.—Command of the Third Russian Army Meets with a Hearty Reception.

TOKIO—The turret ship Sevastopol is still afloat, but is apparently damaged.

The partially successful torpedo attack on the Sevastopol was made in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, and writes another inspiring story of the splendid bravery of a number of officers.

The entire crew of the torpedo boat destroyers and torpedo boats volunteered for the attack, courting death in their efforts to destroy the only floating Russian battleship at Port Arthur.

Facing a driving snow storm and heavy seas, the flotillas separated and, under individual commanders, the vessels attacked independently. The decks of the destroyers and torpedo boats were coated with ice and the men suffered acutely from cold.

The Russians resorted to the most extreme precautions to protect the Sevastopol. They dropped torpedo nets, which shielded the bows of the warship, and the Sevastopol was further protected by a specially constructed wooden boom, the frame work of which was composed of ironbound logs and cables and heavy chains interlaced and entangled. From the surface of this boom hung a deep curtain made of torpedo nets taken from the sunken battleships, the purpose of which was to catch and destroy the torpedoes and their mechanism.

The Japanese probably refrained from attempting to cut or jump the boom, a plan demonstrated by the British, but the torpedo boats and destroyers evidently forced the openings, which the Russians had left so as to allow communication with the harbor.

The commander of the Third Japanese squadron, reporting at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning, says:

Commencing at 11:30 o'clock Tuesday night and continuing until 3 o'clock Wednesday morning, six torpedo boats and specially fitted torpedo craft constantly attempted attacks against the Russian battleship Sevastopol, the coast defense vessel Otavashi and the military transports.

Details of the attacks are not yet known. However, according to reports received from the watch tower at 9 o'clock this morning, the Sevastopol commenced lowering astern and the water was said to reach the torpedo tubes astern.

Decrease in seeded area.

WASHINGTON—The crop report issued by the department of agriculture says:

Returns to the chief of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture indicate that the newly seeded area of winter wheat is about \$1,155,000 acres, a decrease of 1.6 per cent from the area sown in the fall of 1903, as finally estimated. The condition of winter wheat on December 1 was 82.9, as compared with 86.6 in 1903, 99.7 in 1902 and a ten year average of 92.1. The acreage as compared with last year is 98.4 per cent.

The newly seeded area of winter rye is provisionally estimated at 96.7 per cent of the area sown in the fall of 1903. The condition of winter rye on December 1 was 90.5, as compared with 92.7 on December 1, 1903, 98.1 at the corresponding date in 1902, and 98.2 the mean of the December averages of the last ten years.

The percentage of acreage sown to winter rye this fall as compared with that sown last year is 96.7, the average condition December 1, 1904, was 90.5.

Corresponding averages for 1903 and 1902 were 92.7 and 98.1 respectively, and the mean of the December averages of the last ten years 96.2.

The final estimate of the total acreage production, and farm values of the principal crops for 1904 will be issued on December 28 at 4 o'clock p. m.

FORTS ENORMOUSLY STRONG

Japanese Have Much Hard Work to Do Yet.

Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army, via Fusan—The Japanese are working their advance on the shores of Pigeon bay on comparatively level ground against the Talyankow, Idzchan and Antzechan forts. The approaches to the fortifications are easy, but the forts are enormously strong and the near approach will be all the more difficult, as the sapping of trenches will have to be done through frozen ground.

The naval guns mounted on 203-Meter and 3-Meter hill will be able to cover the advance of infantry against any of the western forts.

Russian Liberals Win Point.

ST. PETERSBURG—There is no longer any doubt that the government intends to commit itself to reforms as the result of the liberal agitation begun when Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky made his advent as minister of interior. The Zemstvoist demand for a direct representative body to make the laws of the nation will not be granted, but some medium in the form of a representative consultative body which can voice the wishes of the people direct to the sovereign now seems the probable outcome.

Wheat in the Northwest.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba—The Northwest Grain Dealers' association, has issued the following on the wheat situation for Manitoba and the northwest territories to the close of navigation: Quantities are given in bushels: Estimated yield, October 15, 59,857,190; inspected to date, 22,200,000; in store at country points, 8,500,000; in transit and not inspected, 4,900,000; total marketed, 31,190,000; for country mills, 8,000,000; for country mills, 7,000,000; total, 46,190,000; balance to market, 13,897,190.

WILL CLOSE SOON.

Land Office in McCook, Neb., to Shut Down.

WASHINGTON—By order of the secretary of the interior the local land office at McCook, Neb., will be closed on January 31, the records on that date to be sent to the land office at the state capitol. The order abandoning the McCook land office was sent out by the general land office Tuesday and will have the effect of terminating the salaries of F. M. Rathbun, register, and C. W. Barnes, receiver. The action taken on the part of Commissioner Richards of the general land office is along the lines of the policy mapped out not only by the interior department, but by statutory amendment as well. The general statutes provide that whenever a land office ceases to be a self-supporting office, by reason of a settlement and taking up of public lands within the prescribed district, that such land office shall be abolished and the records shall be transferred and transmitted to the state capitol for permanent filing.

"This law is just," said Commissioner Richards. "We have just abandoned a land office in Kansas and are contemplating the abandonment of certain of the South Dakota land offices. These abandonments are not so much along the lines of retrenchment, but because the remaining business to be done can much more easily be done from the state capitol when the permanent records are on file. In the case of McCook, it has been some time since that office paid expenses, and it has therefore been deemed advisable to close the office and send the permanent records to Lincoln. The removal of the records from McCook to Lincoln is done by executive order and there is no significance whatever in the case. It will be the policy of the office to cut down land offices wherever they are unnecessary. Personally, I believe that retrenchment is a good thing and if we can accomplish the same results with less of fees I believe it ought to be done."

Joseph Smith of Lamoni, Ia., direct descendant of the original Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon faith and revelator of the Book of Mormon, head of the Josephites, is in Washington for the purpose of securing an intervention of the United States in behalf of his brethren in Tahiti, where, according to French rule, Mormons of the Josephite faith, who are anti-polygamists, are prohibited from seeking converts on that island in the south seas. He asks fair treatment for his brethren who are seeking to make converts to the Mormon faith as represented by the society in Iowa.

BRYAN DEMOCRACY'S LEADER

Senator Newlands Quotes Him in Preference to Judge Parker.

WASHINGTON—The senate had under consideration the pure food and Philippine government bills. Debate on the former was confined to calling attention to the inadequacy of the protection accorded the people of the United States against impure food and drugs.

The discussion of the Philippine bill related solely to the question of the guarantee by the Philippine government of the income or interest on bonds in those islands. Mr. Spooner of Wisconsin leading in the criticism. The suggestion was made by Mr. Newlands of Nevada, that the Philippine government should construct the system of railroad proposed. The debate brought out the first reference in the senate this session to Judge Parker's attitude on the Philippine question, caused by Mr. Newlands quoting from certain utterances of William J. Bryan and President Roosevelt. Mr. Foraker inquired why he had ignored Judge Parker, and Mr. Newlands replied that Mr. Bryan for eight years stood as the leader of the democratic party.

FOURTEEN YEARS FOR ASSASSIN

Sasonoff, Murderer of Von Plehve, Gets Off Very Easy.

ST. PETERSBURG—It turns out that at the trial of Sasonoff, the assassin of interior minister von Plehve, and Sikorifsky, his accomplice, while Sasonoff did not present the apology he had written in the hospital, he delivered a speech in his justification. Both prisoners were dressed in civilian clothes. Sasonoff walked with a cane, three of his toes and one finger having been amputated as the result of wounds received by the bomb explosion. He also was very deaf, one of his ear drums having been smashed.

Sasonoff, being still an invalid, was taken back to Viborg prison after the trial. Sikorifsky was taken to the St. Peter and St. Paul fortress. The effect of the application of Emperor Nicholas' manifesto on the occasion of the birth of the heir to the throne upon the sentences reduces Sasonoff's term (penal servitude for life) to fourteen years' penal servitude, and Sikorifsky's (who was sentenced to twenty years) to ten years' penal servitude.

In Interest of Settlers.

WASHINGTON—In order that actual settlers should have the public lands representative Reeder of Kansas urged the president to use his influence to secure a change in the public land laws. He told the president the laws ought to be changed at once in the interest of the government and of genuine settlers, so as to prevent the lands from being taken up by people who merely desired to dispose of them at the earliest possible moment. No decision regarding the matter was reached.

Philippine Bill Passed.

WASHINGTON—The senate by a vote of 44 to 23 passed the Philippine civil bill. The vote was preceded by the presentation of many amendments and a general discussion of them, as well as the provisions of the bill. The discussion was confined quite generally to the merits of the measure. On some of the amendments suggested by democratic senators several western republicans voted in the affirmative, but Mr. McCumber was the only republican who voted against the final passage.

ARMY OPERATION

WHAT WAS DOING FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 10.

GEN. STOETSEL MAKES REPORT

Several Times the Assaulting Forces Were Annihilated by the Russians. According to Reports of Prisoners the Japs Lost 20,000 Men.

ST. PETERSBURG—General Stoetzel's dispatches to the emperor, which were received Friday night, were given out Sunday night. The first is dated November 25, and is as follows: "I am happy to inform your majesty that on November 20, after an increased bombardment, the Japanese attacked one of the forts on the northeastern front and leaped with a portion of their forces on the parapet. They were annihilated by rifle fire and bayonet and thrown back into the trenches. Their reserves were scattered by shrapnel. From November 21 to November 23, the enemy violently bombarded the fort, and in spite of great losses, effected by their perseverance a passage between two forts on the northeastern front."

"At 5:30 in the evening of November 23, after heavy firing, the Japanese suddenly hurled themselves against several works on this front and seized a portion of the trenches, but were thrown back by the reserves after a fierce bayonet struggle. They returned to the assault at midnight and again occupied a part of the trenches, but were annihilated by our bayonets. At 2 o'clock in the morning all was over and your majesty's heroic troops were able to rest and start repairing the damage caused by the bombardment."

"From the 20th to the 24th the Japanese lost more than 2,000 men. All of our troops behaved as heroes. The following especially distinguished themselves: Generals Kronradenko, Nikitin (commander of the artillery) and Gorbatsky, and Lieutenant Colonel Naouemenko. (Dozens of other officers in lower grades are also mentioned in the dispatch.)"

"Bombardment of the town and harbor continued daily. A number of buildings have been destroyed and the harbor has sustained some damage. The garrisons are in excellent spirits."

In another dispatch, dated November 23, General Stoetzel says:

"The 26th and 27th were the bloodiest days in the assaults on Port Arthur. The attacks began on the night of the 25th against our left flank, near Pigeon bay."

"The first was repulsed with great loss to the Japanese. The same night the enemy attacked a detachment on Panlung mountain, but were repulsed, as were also their attacks on Visokala (Two Hundred and Three-Meter hill)."

"On the 26th the Japanese began to bombard and attack fiercely the forts on the northeastern front and the advanced trenches. The trenches repeatedly changed hands. Nevertheless, on the night of the 26th we threw back the Japanese at the point of the bayonet. The enemy succeeded in blowing up the parapet of one of the forts and began building parallels there. At another fort the same night they laid sacks along the rampart, but our artillery dispersed them."

GREAT FIRE AT MINNEAPOLIS

Several Large Business Blocks in Heart of the City Destroyed.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Three men killed, two firemen and one citizen, the latter by a live wire, and from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 worth of property destroyed is the result of a conflagration, the worst in the history of Minneapolis, which began at 10 o'clock last night and at 2 o'clock this (Wednesday morning) is still burning, but partially under control, as the firemen seem to have the flames confined to three burning buildings, two of which are gutted and the third, the Powers department store, the largest in the city, damaged by water and fire to the extent of \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000.

The wholesale furniture supply house of Boutell Bros., the largest in the city, and O. H. Peck, photographic supply house, are now totally destroyed, with three other buildings now burning.

Waterway Commission.

OTTAWA, Ont.—An international waterway commission is to be appointed by the United States and Canadian governments to report on waters adjacent to the Canadian boundary line. Canadian boats are passing through channels in United States territory and vice versa without any real authority and this commission will deal with these matters, so that an understanding can be reached between both countries. The latest complaint is that waters are being diverted in Minnesota.

Board of Health Denies.

MEXICO CITY—The superior board of health, which has agents all over the republic, denies sensational reports wired out from here regarding starvation and disease on the west coast in the northern part of the state of Sinaloa. It is not true that there have been more deaths from malaria and starvation in Sinaloa than were caused by bubonic plague. Reports received by the superior board of health show only a few cases of yellow fever remaining in the republic at the present time.

Japs Try to Extend Works.

HUANG SHAN—A correspondent who went over all the front positions of the Russian army from Poutloff hill to Erdau on December 15, reports everything quiet, except that midway between Poutloff hill and Simitin the Japanese were believed to be trying to extend their frontal works and intrenchments on Double Hump hill. The artillery of Poutloff and Erdau opened fire on the Japanese and forced them to quit work and seek shelter. There have been few cases of frostbite.

CIVIL BILL PASSED.

Senate Disposes of the Philippine Measure.

WASHINGTON—The senate by a vote of 44 to 23, passed the Philippine civil bill. The vote was preceded by the presentation of many amendments and a general discussion of them, as well as the provisions of the bill. The discussion was confined quite generally to the merits of the measure. On some of the amendments suggested by democratic senators several western republicans voted in the affirmative, but Mr. McCumber was the only republican who voted against the final passage of the bill.

The most notable change made was that lowering the rate of interest on railroad bonds to be guaranteed by the Philippine government from 5 to 4 per cent.

The bill as passed exempts from taxation all bonds issued by the Philippine and Porto Rican government; authorizes municipalities in the Philippines to incur a bonded indebtedness amounting to 5 per cent of the assessed valuation of their property, at 5 per cent interest; authorizes the Philippine government to incur a bonded indebtedness of \$5,000,000 for improvements at 4 1/2 per cent; authorizes the Philippine government to guarantee the payment of interest on railroad bonds at the rate of 4 per cent per annum; provides for the administration of the immigration laws by the Philippine authorities; establishes a system for the locating and patenting of mineral, coal and saline lands; fixes the metric system for the islands and gives the civil governor the title of governor general.

BAKER TO HAVE A HEARING.

Makes a Good Impression During His Interview with President.

WASHINGTON—From a larger knowledge of the interview which occurred between President Roosevelt and Judge B. S. Baker of New Mexico, Senator Millard and Representative Hineshaw, it seems fair to predict that Judge Baker will be given a hearing on the charges preferred against him and an opportunity to rebut the evidence which led to his removal as United States judge of the Second district of New Mexico.

It was learned that Judge Baker's statement that he had never had an opportunity to be heard on the charges preferred against him, except as to plead not guilty to the specifications, greatly surprised the president. He had assumed the recommendation of the attorney general for the removal of Judge Baker was sustained by the evidence in the case. When he was told, however, that a promise was made to Judge Baker by the special examiner sent to investigate the charges that he would be given ample opportunity to rebut the evidence taken and that no such opportunity had been accorded, President Roosevelt remarked that every man had a right to his day in court.

EXPECT BIG STOCK EXHIBIT.

Fine Live Stock Promises to Fill Lewis and Clark Grounds.

PORTLAND, Ore.—The portion of the Lewis and Clark fair grounds which was allotted to the exhibition of live stock, it is thought, will prove inadequate to the demand, and arrangements are being made to enlarge it. Anything further than an exhibition of the high bred stock from farms on the North Pacific coast was not contemplated by the state commission in the first place. Since the convention of the International Live Stock association at Chicago, however, it has developed that the breeders from all over the country are planning to send the best of their herds to Portland next year. This prompted the exposition authorities to increase the appropriation for premiums from \$40,000 to \$55,000, and to consider the advisability of increasing the space to be devoted to the display.

POOR PLACE OF AMERICANS.

Island of Guam Not Likely to Appeal to Them.

WASHINGTON—The annual report of Commander G. L. Dyer, commandant and naval governor of the island of Guam, which was approved by Secretary Dorton, says that there remains a vast amount of work to put the administration of the colony on a satisfactory modern footing. The people are poor, ignorant, very dirty in their habits, but gentle and very religious says the report.

Commander Dyer does not think Americans will be willing to live there permanently.

Commander Dyer is of the opinion that the revenues of the island will be sufficient to carry on certain public services, such as schools and roads. Although extreme paternalism is recommended the preliminary steps of the people to attain a higher grade of living and culture, it is stated, must be guided by Americans.

Negro Makes Slave of Brother.

ATHENS, Ga.—One negro seeks release from a condition of servitude from one of his own race. In Clark county Robert Christopher, colored, through his attorney, has sworn out a warrant before Commissioner Kinnebrew, charging his half brother, George Christopher, with compelling him to work for the latter without any legal right to do so, and he seeks the aid of the federal court in procuring his release. The outcome of the trial of the accused negro is awaited with unusual interest.

Given Authority to Act.

PORTLAND, Ore.—Francis J. Henry, the California attorney who acted as prosecutor for the government in the recent land fraud trial, has been appointed assistant district attorney for the district of Oregon. The appointment was made to permit Mr. Henry to appear before the federal grand jury next Monday to present evidence to that body looking to the indictment of persons implicated in the land frauds unearthed in this state by Colonel Greene, inspector for the interior department.

FAVOR OF PEACE

A MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS HELD IN NEW YORK.

ASK SENATE FOR TREATIES

Many Prominent Men in Attendance—Resolutions Adopted Urging Congressmen to Favor Convention that Will Bring About Peace.

NEW YORK—A mass meeting called to urge the prompt ratification of the arbitration treaties recently signed by the state department with several of the leading foreign powers was held at Carnegie hall under the auspices of the New York executive committee of the American conference on international arbitration.

There was a large attendance and the speakers were frequently applauded.

John Crosby Brown in an opening address expressed regret at the absence of Andrew Carnegie, who was to have opened the meeting, but whom, he said, could not be present.

Mayor George B. McClellan presided and was the first speaker.

M. Linn Bruce, governor-elect, spoke against deciding differences by nations with war, and was followed by Archbishop Ireland. While the archbishop was speaking he was interrupted by a man who said: "Give somebody else a chance."

The archbishop immediately sat down. The audience hooted the man who had shouted and the ushers tried to find him, but failed. Then the audience applauded until Archbishop Ireland resumed.

The letters from Grover Cleveland, Carl Schurz, John Mitchell, Andrew Carnegie and General Nelson A. Miles were read, after which Bishop Henry C. Potter was introduced and spoke briefly.

A speech by Rabbi Silberman concluded the speaking, after which resolutions were adopted unanimously as follows:

"Whereas, The method of settling international disputes and difficulties by arbitration rather than by force is in accord with the highest precepts of reason and humanity; and

"Whereas, The civilized nations of the world have, by jointly establishing the permanent court at The Hague, recognized the moral obligation which rests upon them to avoid the horrors of war by the submission of their controversies to judicial determination; and

"Whereas, The government of the United States, which for the past half century has been foremost in the actual resort to arbitration, has negotiated and is negotiating treaties with various powers, making compulsory upon the contracting nations the reference of disputes of a certain nature to the international court at The Hague; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, the citizens of New York, in mass meeting assembled, favor the expression by the government of the United States of the principle of international arbitration to all questions which cannot otherwise be brought to a pacific settlement; and it is further

"Resolved, That since the proposed treaties extended the operation of arbitration in accord with the moral, political and economic interests of this country and of the world, we earnestly require our representatives in the senate to exert their influence in behalf of such treaties and of their prompt consideration and approval by the senate; and it is further

"Resolved, That the president and secretary of this meeting be and are hereby directed to forthwith forward copies of these resolutions to the president of the United States, senators from the state of New York, to the president of the senate and the chairman of the committee on foreign relations."

Miss Newlands Soon to Wed.

WASHINGTON—Senator Newlands of Nevada announced the engagement of his youngest daughter, Frances, to Lieutenant Leopoldo von Brendow of the German army.

HEALTH OF TROOPS EXCELLENT

Encouraging Report From General in Philippines.

WASHINGTON—Brigadier General manual commanding the department of Luzon, Philippine islands, in his annual report to the war department says that the general health of the troops is excellent, the disappearance of cholera having removed one of the greatest sources of anxiety. The improved health conditions are said to be due to the construction of new posts, the absence of hard field service, the drinking of distilled water and enforced abstinence from native fruits and uncooked vegetables. It is recommended that continuous service in the Philippines be limited to two years in order to avert nervous breakdown which is said to be quite common among the white troops in the islands.

President Invited South.

WASHINGTON—Congressman Lester of Georgia, representing the Savannah board of trade, extended to the president an invitation to visit Savannah on his southern trip next spring. The president said that he did not expect to visit Georgia next spring and would make at that time no general tour of the South. He said he expected to go directly to San Antonio, Tex., by way of Louisville, but at some later time in his administration he hoped to visit Georgia and other southern cities.

Land Fraud Cases Go Over.

PORTLAND, Ore.—On motion of Special Assistant United States Attorney General Francis J. Henry, all the land fraud cases now pending in the United States circuit court for the district of Oregon, were ordered to go over for the term. The witnesses summoned to appear were excused for the term and speculation is rife as to the cause for this unexpected action on the part of the government.

In moving for a continuance, Attorney Henry gave the court no reason for the movement.

NEWS IN NEBRASKA

STATE NOTES.

Fifty-eight students from Cass county are attending the State university in Lincoln.

The Lutherans in and about Sutherland are about to organize and arrange for a pastor.

Thomas Davis, colored, was bound over to district court in the sum of \$500 on the charge of daylight burglary.

The loss on the Masonic temple building at Fremont, which was badly damaged by fire, has been adjusted at \$10,000. The building will be repaired as soon as possible.

The Beatrice Independent Telephone company is making plans to build another telephone line southwest of Blue Springs as soon as possible.

Maynard Spink, president of the Northwestern Business college of Beatrice, has issued an order prohibiting students of the college visiting billiard or pool rooms without the consent of their parents.

Captain W. P. Wyatt, a pioneer resident of Beatrice, who has been in failing health for some time, was injured by falling down stairs at his home. His injuries are not considered serious.

A number of the Sisters of Charity from Leavenworth, Kan., who have purchased the Nebraska City hospital were in that city making arrangements for a number of improvements to the hospital.

Ernest Linn of Belmont, Lancaster county, missed the tin can balanced on the head of 8-year-old Sylvan Delore and the charge from his shot gun tore the brains from the skull of the boy, killing him instantly.

Miss Lottie Osgood, a daughter of Mrs. J. M. Osgood, residing six miles northeast of Elk Creek, has been adjudged insane and taken to the asylum at Lincoln. The young lady has not been well for a number of years.

A third operation was found necessary on Camilo Niemann, of Grand Island, a young man who was shot in the arm about a month ago, the bullet lodging firmly in the bone. Niemann states that he was held up and when he attempted to resist was shot.

Milton Cline, one of the most prominent farmers in the vicinity of Verdun, died from injuries. One week ago Mr. Cline was attacked by an angry bull, which knocked him down and stamped on him. On Friday an operation was performed. The doctors found that the intestines had been separated in five places.

William Pribnow, a young man, came dashing into Grand Island from the country, and rushed into police court for protection from the Winter brothers, who were not half a mile behind him, chasing Pribnow hotly, and who was charged by the Winter brothers with a very serious crime against Miss Mary Mohr. The girl has filed a complaint against him and his case will come up in court.

Thieves entered the barn of Lawrence Vohland, a prosperous German farmer living six miles southwest of Shelton, and stole a valuable team of horses, a new set of harness and hitched them to one of Mr. Vohland's wagons and left in an easterly direction. The team was a heavy pair of draft horses and was quite valuable. Mr. Vohland has been offered \$450 for them and refused it.

Mr. Jones, living a mile north of Huntley, in Harlan county, found in his corn field, near the public highway, a valise, which contained a complete set of burglar tools, consisting of false face, drills, bits, brace, dynamite, fuse, skeleton keys, a complete set of tools to break off the locks on safes, and a number of other tools and instruments used by burglars to enter houses, open safes and explode chests.

George T. Harr, local manager at Kearney for the Beatrice Creamery company, shot and instantly killed himself. The tragedy was enacted in a water closet at the rear of the old laundry building. The cause for the taking of his life was bad health and a shortage in his accounts.

The county commissioners of Otoe county issued an order instructing the county treasurer to cancel all taxes on church parsonages for the year 1902 and to refund all taxes paid on parsonages for that year. Otoe county is the only county in the state that has been assessing church parsonages.

Adam Kopetsky, a farmer living west of Duncan in Merrick county, lost \$60 in currency. He had the bills in a tobacco sack and he felt sure that he had dropped it while feeding his stock. He also had a strong suspicion that a calf had eaten it, sack and all. He slept one night over the matter and then slaughtered the animal. The money was found in one of the stomachs—some of it partly digested, but in such a shape that he had no difficulty in having it redeemed at the bank.

Rev. John Calvert, the pastor of the Humboldt Methodist church, has organized the young people of his congregation into the White Shield league, a temperance organization, the membership amounting to seventy at the outset.

Dietrich Steinbeck, a farmer who had called at a store in Grand Island, to trade, accidentally fell down the elevator shaft. He was precipitated head first, but fortunately came in contact at the other end, with a large barrel full of chipped cork, and was not hurt.

The west-bound Northwestern passenger train struck a farmer's wagon at the depot in Leigh. The team was owned and driven by Puly Heitz. The wagon was demolished and piled up against a sign post, with Mr. Heitz wounded. He was not hurt, but the wagon was demolished.

J. S. Tewksbury and L. W. Pomeroy of Lincoln are making estimates for the new water works for Osceola. The plans have been made and bids will be received up to the latter part of this month and these gentlemen expect to capture the contract.

BIG CONCERNS LOSE MONEY.

Forty-one of Leading Fire Insurance Companies Reported with Deficits.

LINCOLN—A revelation was received at the office of Insurance Deputy Pierce in the way of insurance statistics. The statistics were prepared for the Journal of Insurance Economics and show that forty-one of the biggest fire insurance companies now doing business made altogether during the last five years only \$122,000. Out of the total of forty-one companies, twenty-three of them come out loser at the end of the five years, leaving only eighteen that made a profit during that length of time. Two companies made enormous profits during the five years. The Aetna cleared \$1,573,000 and the Continental cleared \$1,174,000. The Hartford was the greatest loser, coming out behind for the five years' business a total of \$685,000.

But for all this, the statistics show the insurance business has come up wonderfully during the last two years, and for 1902 and 1903 the profits were enormous, making it seem unnecessary for an increase in rates at this time. Last year these same companies cleared a total of \$12,794,000, while the year before that they cleared \$5,193,000. The three years previous the losses amounted to over \$17,000,000, divided as follows: 1899, \$7,693,000; in 1900, \$3,009,000; in 1901, \$7,163,000. Each of the forty-one companies made profits last year, while only six of them came out behind the year before.

MONEY DUE THE STATE.

What Various Counties are Owring for Insane Patients.

For keeping insane patients the various counties owe the state a total of \$112,047.37. Some of this money has long been due and it is needed by Peter Mortensen for various reasons and unless it is paid there may be something doing by the auditor through the attorney general. Each county is invited to send in a check for the amount opposite its name.

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|-----------|-------|-------------|----------|-------|----------|
| Adams | | \$ 1,977.49 | Logan | | 946.75 |
| Boone | | 5,772.54 | Madison | | 7,012.27 |
| Box Butte | | 2,962.50 | Merrick | | 5,652.28 |
| Burt | | 4,925.68 | Nebraska | | 233.31 |
| Butler | | 6,984.22 | Pawnee | | 2,273.77 |
| Cedar | | 45.20 | Perkins | | 28 |