

NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

SUCCINCT SUMMARY OF A WEEK'S EVENTS

Most Important Happenings of the Past Seven Days Briefly Mentioned—All Portions of the State Covered—A Thorough Resume of Nebraska News.

Samuel Smith an old resident of Auburn, committed suicide by hanging himself. Despondency was the cause.

T. P. Kennard of Lincoln has received the appointment, by President McKinley, to be receiver of the land office.

James Mason of Cass county has been taken to the penitentiary to serve four years for committing an assault with a deadly weapon on a farmer named Rauth. When the assault was committed Mason was working for Rauth.

The regulars from Ft. Robinson and Niobrara passed through Fremont Monday. Arrangements were made with the E. & M. V. road for their transportation and cars were sent west for the accommodation of the soldiers.

H. Belker, has been making his home with his son-in-law, Henry Fleigel, ten miles northwest of Gibbon. During the absence of the family at church, he went to the barn and committed suicide by shooting himself with a shotgun. It is supposed the deed was done in a temporary fit of insanity. He was 65 years old.

As Prof. L. C. Gregory of Benkelman was walking down the street, reading the headlines of the latest war news, without any warning Kenneth McDonald ran up to him and struck him several times, once upon the nose and once on the jaw. The professor lost some chickens and sent some of the remaining feathers which he found in his chicken house to his assailant, but it appears that the joke was not appreciated. An arrest, it is said, will follow.

Fred Brand, a Fontanelle farmer, was seriously injured in a runaway. He was harrowing in the field, and while he went after more seed left his team in charge of his wife. The horses acted badly and succeeded in getting away. When they broke away Mr. Brand was only a short distance away and ran and caught hold of one of the animals. He was knocked down and stepped upon and suffered three broken ribs. Whether he was injured by the harrow is not known.

Box Bette county has been in a state of excitement for several weeks on account of the county seat agitation. The county commissioners have completed the examination of the petition, which was presented by the Alliance people calling for a special election to be held for the purpose of submitting the question of relocating the county seat. The commissioners rejected the petition, giving the following as their reason therefor: "The petition contains the name of one hundred and thirty persons who are not resident electors of this county, fifteen of whom are business men of Alliance, who are holding homesteads in adjoining counties. That some whose names appear or authorize their names to be placed thereon and that thirty-five persons who signed the petition afterwards signed a remonstrance and that said petition is not signed by resident electors equal in number to three-fifths of the votes cast at the last general election." The petitioners were represented by attorneys Noleman and Berry of Alliance, and Messrs. M. A. Hall of Montgomery and Hall of Omaha, and J. E. Porter of Crawford, while Hemingford attorneys appeared for remonstrators. It is a victory for Hemingford.

The state board of equalization will meet this month to assess railroads. Members of the board are already investigating assessments of land and other property in the state for the purpose of fixing the railroad assessment as near like the assessment on other property as possible. Those who have investigated the subject of land values are far from satisfied with the result. No two persons agree as to the value of land. Last year the average assessed valuation of improved land throughout the state was \$3.14 an acre. The average value of unimproved land was \$1.61. In Lancaster county the assessed valuation was \$4.78; Saline county, \$3.53; York county, \$3.59; Douglas, \$12.23; Hooker, 44 cents. One member of the board has been informed by a prominent populist that land within ten miles of Lincoln can be bought for \$25 an acre. If this is true, the land in Lancaster county was assessed last year at one-fifth its value. The average assessed valuation of the Burlington road was fixed last year by the state board of equalization at an average of \$4.313 a mile, the highest being \$10,500 a mile. Fusionist state officers have indicated from time to time that railroads in Nebraska could be reproduced for \$15,000 a mile. If this is the correct value the roads have been assessed by the state board at about one-third the actual value. Other property is assessed at from one-fifth to one-tenth.

Max Sauer, a boy born and reared in Columbus, who for the past three years has been in charge of the electric light department on one of the large lake passenger steamers plying between Duluth and Cleveland, has written his parents that he has enlisted in the United States navy for two years. He enlisted at Chicago and will be assigned for duty in the engineering service of the next boat named for the navy. He is an ingenious lad and worked a number of years for the Columbus electric light company. He is twenty-two years old.

H. W. Hill, editor of the North Platte Daily Telegraph has been appointed postmaster of that city.

The department store of Herman Blumenthal at Fremont was recently broken into and looted of goods and jewelry to the value of \$200.

The articles stolen from H. Blumenthal's department store at Fremont were discovered in a vacant building. The burglars have not yet been apprehended.

The new pumping apparatus for Minden's new system of waterworks is nearing completion, and when it is in working order Minden will have one of the best systems in the state. It is the new air-lift system.

Governor Holcomb, in a carefully written answer, refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the supreme court over the co-ordinate branch of the government, the executive, in the matter of the mandamus of Victor Rosewater.

State Treasurer Meserve has issued a call for \$33,000 of general fund warrants, making a total of \$63,000 for the month of April. The total issue of warrants for April amounted to \$35,000. The call becomes effective April 23.

To counteract the feeling that has been occasioned by the allowing of the \$3,200 advertising contract to the Bee, the exposition management has decided to erect a building exclusively for the press. This action was practically demanded by the state press association.

The soldiers from Ft. Crook, Omaha, have gone south. The command comprised something over 500 men and thirty officers. About twenty or thirty deserted. The wives and sweethearts of the soldiers were present to bid them goodbye. Many of the partings were pathetic.

The Beatrice Chautauqua assembly has been declared off for this year. There are several reasons for this decision, the principal one being the fear that the Trans-Mississippi exposition might cut down the attendance to such an extent the association would be confronted with a deficit.

The house on the Colonel Duke farm northeast of Cresco was completely destroyed by fire. The farm was occupied by Albert Basel, a renter, who succeeded in saving the greater portion of his household goods. The origin of the fire is supposed to have been from a defective flue.

The town of Gordon was thrown in to commotion the other day over some promiscuous shooting by Taylor Palmer. He was chased by the constable, who succeeded in capturing him. His fine cost him \$10. In former days such an event would scarcely have caused a ripple of excitement or attracted the notice of the authorities.

State Superintendent Jackson will endeavor to interest all the schools in the state using the source method study of history to join in a special exhibit of their work. Nebraska was one of the first states in the union to use the source method in the study of history. There are over 100 public and private schools using the method. Superintendent Jackson has made out a list of these schools and proposes to arrange for a special exhibit if possible.

The first consignment of the year supplies for the Nebraska national guard have been received from St. Louis. The shipment consists of 1,300 caps of the regulation style, trousers, leggings, chevrons and stripes. There were twenty boxes. The balance of the \$4,000 worth of equipments will arrive in a few days from Philadelphia and Rock Island. The Nebraska national guard is allowed to draw annually \$6,000 worth of supplies from the government.

Peter Johnson and A. Folston were taken before the county insanity commission at Wahoo and adjudged insane and will be sent to the asylum as soon as permits can be obtained. Mr. Johnson is a bachelor farmer about fifty years old, living in the vicinity of Weston, and labors under the hallucination that parties have designs on his property. Mr. Folston is about thirty years old, a cooper by trade, and has lived with his wife and little boy in that city for some years. A few months ago he had a stroke of paralysis and the disease has progressed to such a stage as to injure his mind. Mr. Folston realizes his condition and desires expert treatment. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the members are caring for him.

William Weston, an itinerate horse trader hailing from Kansas, died at the hospital in Fremont recently from the effects of poison. He arrived in Fremont with his family a few days before his death. He had a bunch of horses with him and went into camp in Bolding's pasture just west of the city. A member of the family came to town for some whisky and here came the trouble. During the night deceased got up to get a drink and instead of getting the whisky bottle took a big swig from a bottle of horse medicine. It made him very sick but when taken to the hospital it was thought he would recover, but a change for the worse took place and he died. His remains were taken to Iowa for burial.

At Minden the other day passenger train No. 2 of the B. & M. collided with the runaway team of Chris Anderson. Team and man were killed instantly.

A heavy rain and hail storm reached eastern Nebraska Sunday, doing much damage. In some places as much as three inches of water fell in an hour. At Louisville, Neb., 500 feet of the Rock Island main line was washed out, derailing an eastbound passenger train. The engine and baggage car were demolished, but no one was seriously hurt.

MARCH TO THE SEA.

ARMY WILL BE MOVED IN A FEW DAYS.

According to Regulations the Quartermasters Were Obligated to Advertise for Bids for Transportation—All Commands Ready to Move.

Senate for Independence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18.—Late Saturday night the senate passed the Cuban resolution amended recognizing Cuban independence by a vote of 67 to 21. The resolution will be sent to the house today and will probably go to conference.

CHICAGO, April 18.—The troops from Fort Sheridan and the other garrisons of the Department of the Lakes will not start for the various points of the South to which they have been assigned before Tuesday morning. General Brooke and his staff will not leave for Chickamauga before Monday night, and possibly not until after the troops are in motion.

Telephone and telegraph messages were sent to-day to the general offices of every railroad connecting with the South, and terminal points near the various garrisons. The post quartermasters at Fort Thomas, Columbus barracks, Forts Brady and Wayne, were wired to notify the railroad officials in their vicinity of the invitation for bids. Quartermaster General Lee, in anticipation of an order to move, has been working on the question of transportation for the last three weeks.

Railroad companies have been kept in touch with the quartermaster and had the order from Washington been an urgent one the regulations would have been set aside and Colonel Lee would have been in a position to have completed transportation with the most direct lines within an hour's time. The troops could then have been in motion before noon to-day. Such is the procedure in times of war or riot.

While General Brooke is ordered to the command of the cavalry rendezvous at Chickamauga National park, he will remain in Chicago until all details for the transportation of the department troops are completed.

FEEDING OF THE ARMY.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 18.—The feeding of the army soon to be brought to the South will evidently devolve upon the Department of the Gulf.

Major Dravo, chief commissary officer of the department, is already arranging for a purchasing station here, and Captain Travers, his purchasing agent, began to-day to provide provisions for the 20,000 troops. He visited fifteen bakeries in Atlanta and arranged to get 100,000 loaves of bread per day if that quantity should be needed.

Colonel Simpson, quartermaster of the Department of the Gulf, has arranged for the rent of a large tract of land near Fort McPherson for the use of all troops which may be stopped in Atlanta. The government will pay \$100 per month for the rent of this land.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Definite orders have been received at army headquarters here for the transfer of the United States troops stationed at the Presidio and Benicia barracks, comprising the first infantry, to New Orleans. Arrangements were subsequently made by the Southern Pacific Railway company for transportation eastward, the start from here to be made this afternoon or to-morrow, if possible. With the infantry regiment will also go two troops of cavalry and two batteries of light artillery, comprising in all about 550 men.

AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 18.—Major W. H. Weisler, jr., commander of Jefferson barracks, twelve miles south of this city, where six troops of the Third cavalry are quartered, received orders to-day from General Coppinger to proceed to Chickamauga park. A telegram from Lieutenant West, adjutant at the barracks, says that the command will leave as soon as transportation can be provided, probably on Monday or Tuesday.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, April 16.—Six companies of the Eighteenth infantry at Fort Sam Houston, and four companies at Fort Clark will leave for New Orleans to-night under command of Colonel Van Vahzah. Camp equipage and stores are now loading on a special train, which will leave during the afternoon. Troops from Fort Clark and probably from other forts in Texas will be concentrated here and all start for New Orleans together.

The Fifth cavalry will be kept in Texas to put down disorder on the Mexican frontier, which is expected in case of war.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 18.—Six companies of the Eleventh infantry, U. S. A., from Fort Apache and Whipple barracks, Ar. z., about 400 men in all, including the band and officers, passed through Kansas City this afternoon on their way to St. Louis, where after remaining a few hours they will leave for Mobile, Ala. They came in over the Santa Fe road in two special trains.

Death of Robert M. McLane.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—A telegram received at the state department this morning from Ambassador Porter says that Robert M. McLane, former minister to France, died at Paris at 6 o'clock this morning. He had been ill for some time and passed quietly away. He was 83 years old.

Kansas Stucco for the Omaha Exposition. HOPE, Kan., April 18.—The stucco mills of South Dickinson are shipping stucco to Omaha to be used in finishing the building of the Trans-Mississippi exposition.

IS ANXIOUS FOR AN END.

The President is Impatient at Delay—To Foretell Cortes.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—President McKinley to-day received official notification that the Spanish ministry has issued a note saying that perfect peace reigns in Cuba. The object of this statement, known by government officials here to be false, is thought by the President to be a further attempt of Spain to gain sympathy in Europe.

Secret agents of the State department in Havana wire this government that fighting continues in Cuba.

President McKinley, it is learned to-day, is anxious that Congress shall speedily reach an agreement on a resolution. He will lose no time in enforcing it. It can be stated on the highest authority that the President does not desire action delayed until the Spanish cortes meets Wednesday. He does not expect the meeting of the cortes to have any peaceful effect on the situation and for that reason does not want delay.

He wants to get the congressional resolution in his hands this afternoon, if that can be arranged, but Senator Hoar told him this morning that the Senate is not likely to vote until just before midnight.

NO QUORUM ON OPENING.

In accordance with the agreement reached last night the Senate convened promptly at 10 o'clock, and after the transaction of some routine business the resolution of the foreign relations committee was laid before the Senate. Few Senators were upon the floor at the time and Mr. Teller suggested the lack of a quorum, saying it was due to Senators who were to speak that a quorum be present. After about fifteen minutes a quorum appeared.

Mr. Allen said he wanted to call attention to the remarkable scene that had occurred at the White House April 7. He referred to the call of the representatives of six great powers upon the President, and to the exchange of notes upon the Hispano-American system. He declared that no similar scene had ever been witnessed in this country.

PROTEST AGAINST THE POWERS.

"I wish to register my protest," said Mr. Allen, "against the representatives of the so-called powers of Europe entering the White House and telling this country what it shall do. I cannot understand why the President did not inform them that this country would not tolerate any interference from them; yet here is the first step towards the breaking down of the Monroe doctrine and the destruction of the nation. And it is understood that these same so-called powers are to go further and make another assault upon the White House with more pressing demands. Within six months these same powers will be urging the United States to agree to arbitration in order that our liability for Spanish-Cuban bonds may be determined."

Mr. Cannon was then recognized and spoke in favor of immediate decisive action and the recognition of the independence of the Cuban republic.

IN DEFENSE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. Burrows supported the position assumed in this crisis by the President and argued against the recognition of the present republic of Cuba.

Mr. Platt of Connecticut, in accordance with the agreement reached last night, was accorded a half hour's time. He devoted it to a strong and eloquent expression of his hope for peace and a defense of the President. He thought the time for orations was past. Oratory would not bombard Moro castle; stinging, angry words may wound the President, but they cannot pierce the armor of Spanish battle ships.

Mr. Platt believed that peace might have been preserved had it not been for the intemperate utterances of those who seemed bent upon plunging the country into war. He hoped, he said, that even yet some way might be found of averting war and at the same time secure peace in Cuba. He said, however, that if our determined purpose to intervene to put an end to conditions in the island of Cuba should result in war, it must be so. The United States would not be recreant to its duty or to a great trust. He held that the President and House of Representatives had placed the pending question upon high ground. The Senate was called upon to place it on lower ground; on untenable ground that would not be approved by the nations of the earth.

"I deplore it; it is unpardonable," declared Mr. Platt. He thought to recognize the present republic, which General Lee had testified existed only in skeleton, would be little short of folly. Before extending such recognition Mr. Platt said it would be necessary for the United States to strike from history the words of many of the nation's statesmen and give up the Monroe doctrine.

Mr. Platt concluded with an appeal for calm and deliberate action—such as would be approved by all future generations.

The Theatrical Way.

Hamlet—Is that little chap still supporting the leading lady at the Gaiety? Richard—No. They are married.

Ex-State Senator in Trouble.

ATCHISON, Kan., April 18.—Samuel A. Ream, ex-state senator from Jackson county, was brought to Atchison from Holton yesterday and arraigned on a charge of robbing the Union Pacific depot at Larkin some months ago. He gave bond.

A Plot Against Li Hung Chang.

SHANGHAI, April 18.—The Shanghai News says that a formidable conspiracy has been discovered in the palace at Peking to assassinate Li Hung Chang and other high officials. The Manchus accuse him of selling China to Russia.

SPAIN'S VERY POOR ARMY.

Soldiers Ignorant of the Use of Arms—She Has Good Weapons.

New York, April 18.—A dispatch to the New York Times from Washington says: "It is expected that the forces that will be used in Cuba will consist of cavalry, infantry and light artillery. Heavy artillery could hardly be used in the wet season, and besides, it would not be necessary in operations against the Spaniards, Consul General Lee, it is understood, advised the use of these branches of the service for the campaign in Cuba. He is of the opinion that the army can successfully conduct operations in the island during the wet weather if it has cavalry and light batteries. Rapid fire guns and plenty of them will be depended on very largely to do the fighting."

"It is reported by all observers of the military methods of the Spaniards that their infantry at once forms a hollow square upon the approach of cavalry. This military formation has been in practice for a century and the Spaniards have not learned any other way to repel cavalry attacks. Military experts say that when an army is so formed it can be decimated by rapid fire guns and destroyed if it does not soon break such formation. The cavalry will be used to force the Spaniards into position, to get them at bay as it were, and the infantry and light artillery will then attack with rapid fire guns."

"It is said that the Spanish forces in Cuba are poorly armed. They have a fairly good rifle, the Mauser, but are inadequately supplied with ammunition, and most of the troops, being young boys, do not know how to use their guns. In rapid fire guns they are very deficient. Artillery is their weakest point and they cannot now supply the deficiency. Even Havana is defended by antiquated cannon, with the exception of six fine new Krupp guns, which, however, have been allowed to rust on their carriages, and the artillerists do not know anything about their use."

"At Matanzas they have four guns of the same kind—heavy 10 and 12 inch cannon—but there are no cartridges for them and they are perfectly useless. It is said there is only one ordnance officer in the army—Ordizueu—who understands the handling of such guns."

"General Lee, it is understood, advised the war department that a few good regiments would be sufficient for the first movements in Cuba. He relies very strongly upon the efficiency of the army under General Gomez and General Garcia, which would naturally be our allies in war. He reports that the revolutionists have an effective army of 40,000 troops which they could increase to 100,000 almost any time if the arms for them were found."

"Another element in the war that General Lee, it is understood, commented on, is that Spain's troops in Cuba are depending upon this country for food supplies. The island can be entirely shut off from food by the action of the United States. It is estimated that Havana would suffer as much as if it were actually besieged if we should prevent our ships from carrying anything for the Spaniards and the Spanish ships from procuring supplies from our ports. Havana, it is said, by consuls and all who have studied the condition of affairs on the island, is absolutely without food. It is said, indeed, that none of the Spanish armies have any stores of provisions and that Havana is worse off than any other place. An attacking force that merely contents itself with shutting off the food supplies would soon reduce them to submission."

"It is very probable that one of the plans of the military authorities is to make effective allies of the Cubans by arming them, and thus turning a good fighting force of 100,000 men against the Spaniards. It is said that arrangements are already made looking to this end and insuring the immediate and effective co-operation of the American and Cuban forces."

COAL FOR SPAIN.

A British Ship Starts With 3,000 Tons From Norfolk, Va., for Cape Verde.

NORFOLK, Va., April 18.—Three thousand tons of Pocahontas coal have been sent to St. Vincent, Cape Verde islands. It went from the Lambert's Point coaling station by the British steamship Hampstead, Captain Bland. As the Spanish armored cruisers Infanta Maria Teresa and Cristobal Colon are now at that port, it is safe to conclude that this coal is intended for the Spanish fleet. The Hampstead passed right by the American flying squadron in Hampton Roads.

New York, April 18.—The British steamer Willowden sailed for Cuba this afternoon with 3,500 tons of coal for the Mantanzas Railroad company. This is the last shipment of a contract to supply 25,000 tons of coal. Regarding the possibility of the coal being captured in the event of war an official of the company supplying the coal said that inasmuch as the coal was being conveyed in a British vessel, and the railroad is operated by Englishmen, it would be perfectly safe.

A Kilt Goods Train.

New York, April 18.—Representatives of forty knit goods mills met yesterday at the Gilsey house to organize a combine for the purpose of controlling and directing the output in that class of manufacture, with a capital stock of from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

They Are Pledged to Simpson.

NEWTON, Kan., April 18.—Hurvey county Populists will choose ten delegates May 7 to the Hutchinson congressional convention of May 18. Delegates will be for Jerry Simpson.

IN BATTLE-LIKE ARRAY.

The Flying Squadron Behavior Beautifully in Practice.

FORT MONROE, Va., April 18.—The flying squadron returned to anchorage at Fort Monroe, after having completed two days and two nights of arduous labor with satisfaction to its commanding officer, Commodore Schley, who desired the fleet to know each other in the movement of their vessels and be able to answer quickly to all signals for movements liable to be made in an engagement. Running down to Cape Henry on Wednesday afternoon, the squadron was taken fifteen miles out to sea, at the same time maneuvering in response to the signals from the flagship.

All the big vessels responded quickly, the heavy battleships Massachusetts and Texas being especially and surprisingly quick. Line of battle was formed with the Brooklyn on the right, the Massachusetts to the left of the Brooklyn, the Minneapolis to the left of the Massachusetts, the Columbia next and the Texas on the extreme left. The signal to anchor in line was obeyed so well that an almost perfect alignment was obtained. Anchorage was made on Wednesday night fifteen miles east of Cape Charles light, near the southern drill grounds.

Thursday morning found very unfavorable conditions for either maneuvering or using the guns, the weather being intensely disagreeable with a heavy rain and hail storm and a high sea, but Commodore Schley decided to go out and begin the maneuvers. The Massachusetts dipped her low nose in the water time after time, but was handled beautifully, coming up to alignments or circling more quickly than a light cruiser.

The other vessels also were quick to respond to signals. The drill was kept up all day and at nightfall anchorage was made at a point 13 miles from Cape Charles. After dark, signal work by electric light was practiced for two hours.

At 9 o'clock when most of the officers and men had prepared to retire, the call to quarters and battle calls were sounded. On the Brooklyn so quickly was the work done that every division officer had reported "Ready" in four minutes and the ship was ready for battle with water tight compartments closed, ammunition hoisted to guns, turrets swinging, battle hatches down and the crews at the guns ready to shoot. The other ships reported almost as quickly. Friday morning was given up to practice of the guns, all of the ships putting out targets at 800 yards.

WILL NEVER GIVE UP CUBA

Another Semi-Official Statement of Spain's Position Given Out.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—A high foreign authority, speaking with authoritative information on the matter, authorized the following semi-official statement of the Spanish position as to the surrender of Cuba:

"Once and for all, let it be understood that the erroneous impressions as to Spain's relinquishment of the island of Cuba are false and are calculated to inspire false hopes and embarrass intelligent action. The government of Spain has never entertained the thought, and never will entertain it, of evacuating Cuba. At no time has there been a consideration of any step withdrawing the sovereignty of Spain over her West Indian colonies."

"The honor and dignity of Spain revolt at the suggestion of the independence of Cuba, which would alike reduce that island to the misery of irresponsible rule and at the same time terminate a Spanish authority irreparably bound up with the prosperity of the island. For this and other reasons, the reports that Spain is slowly yielding to a retirement from Cuba are both mischievous and groundless. No rulers, no statesmen, no cortes of Spain would ever consider such a humiliation. But, in the face of it, Spain, always desirous of peace and ready by every honorable means to secure peace, will stand resolutely in defense of her inalienable rights, her sovereignty and her honor."

"And she feels confident she has with her the moral support of the entire civilized world."

DENOUNCE LEE.

His Utterances Regarding the Maine Denounced at Madrid.

MADRID, April 18.—The utterances of General Fitzhugh Lee on his return to the United States regarding the Maine, etc., are violently denounced here.

General Weyler reiterates that the letter, of which he is said to be the author, referred to by General Lee, is apocryphal.

It is announced here that in spite of the armistice, the insurgents continue their incursions, and it is added that the government has received news to the effect that new filibustering expeditions are being organized in Florida, their destination being the island of Cuba.

The stories of talkative barbers are often illustrated with original cuts.

Too Much Court Plaster.

Although court plaster is useful in protecting small scratches or abrasions of the skin from harm, it should not be used over any considerable cut or wound in process of healing. This will heal much faster if simply covered with a bit of soft linen, held in place at the ends with strips of surgeon's plaster.

An Arkansas Planter Is Burned Alive.

FAVETTEVILLE, Ark., April 18.—Reuben Stepp, a prominent and wealthy planter, while intoxicated, set fire to his farm house, burning himself alive.