

BANK SAFE LOOTED

Ruskin, Nuckolls County, Has a Bank Robbery.

EXPLOSION AROUSES SLEEPY VILLAGERS

Not Known How Much Money Was Secured, But a Considerable Sum Left Behind—Bloodhounds on Trail But Wreckers Get Away

Word comes from Ruskin, Nuckolls county, that the State bank of that place had been robbed. The outer casing of the safe was blown open and the explosions, of which there were four, aroused the people residing in the vicinity of the bank building.

The money chest is still secure and the bulk of the money was in the chest. Just what amount of money was taken is not yet known, as the vault will not be examined until a representative of the insurance company reaches the scene, but it is said not over \$500 was secured.

The robbers, four in number, were seen going south on foot, and were trailed about three miles, where they had a team waiting.

The sheriff and marshal, with the Beatrice bloodhounds, made a hot chase for them.

They went south through Hardy into Kansas and at Republic the prisoners were close after those who are supposed to be the robbers. The chase was abandoned at Belleville, Kan., as both men and dogs were worn out.

OLEO BILL PASSES

Differs in Some Respects to That Passed by the House.

At the conclusion of a lively debate, the senate passed the oleomargarine bill by a vote of 39 to 31.

The measure as passed by the senate differs in some respects from that passed by the house of representatives. It provides that oleomargarine and kindred products shall be subject to all the laws and regulations of any state or territory or the District of Columbia into which they are transported, whether in original packages or otherwise; that any person who sells oleomargarine and furnishes it for the use of others, except to his own family, who shall mix with it any artificial coloration that causes it to look like butter, shall be subject to the tax provided by existing law; that upon oleomargarine colored so as to resemble butter a tax of 10 cents a pound shall be levied, but upon oleomargarine not colored the tax shall be one-fourth of 1 cent per pound; that upon adulterated butter a tax of 10 cents a pound shall be levied, and upon all process or renovated butter the tax shall be one-fourth of 1 cent per pound. The manufacturers of process or of renovated or of adulterated butter shall pay an annual tax of \$600, the wholesale dealers shall pay a tax of \$480 and the retail dealers a tax of \$48 per annum.

The measure provides regulations for the collection of the tax and prescribes how the various products are to be prepared for market.

LASTED SIX MONTHS

Street Car Strike at Scranton, Pa., Finally Ended by Agreement.

The six months' street car strike at Scranton, Pa., is at an end, and the men have returned to work.

An agreement was signed by General Manager Silliman and the executive board of the strikers.

All the men are to be taken back as quickly as possible at the advance in wages recently announced by the company. The men are given an increase of 7 per cent. The new schedule of the car men changes the minimum from 14 to 17 cents an hour, the maximum from 19 to 23 cents an hour and makes three years instead of five years, the period in which the maximum rate can be earned.

DEADLY FIRE TRAP

Frame Dwelling at Boyne City, Mich., Burns—Four Die in Fire.

A frame dwelling at Boyne City, Mich., occupied by two families, was totally destroyed by fire and four persons were burned to death.

They are: Mrs. James Thompson, Mrs. Frank Littlefield, six-year-old girl, eight-year-old boy, Mrs. Littlefield and her two children were from Spokane, Wash. At the time the fire broke out all the persons in the house were upstairs asleep. The crackling of the fire awakened the sleepers and only Dr. Thompson escaped.

CHILD FALLS IN A TUB

Two-Year-Old Drowned While Parents Were Too Busy to Notice.

The little child of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Walker, who live about five miles northwest of Pawnee City, was accidentally drowned in a tub of water. It was less than two years old, and while the mother was busy the child got out of the house and went to the well. As soon as missed a search of the premises was made and the body was found in the tub, but could not be restored to life. This was the only child of the family.

WILL OF CECIL RHODES PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLONIAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO EACH OF THE PRESENT STATES AND TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The will of Mr. Rhodes also provides for five scholarships for students of German birth at Oxford. Commenting on the bequest Mr. Rhodes in a codicil telegraphed from South Africa, said:

"For a good understanding between England, Germany and the United States will secure the peace of the world, and educational relations form the strongest tie."

BOER FORCES REPULSED

Boers Fighting in the Neighborhood of Hart's River.

Severe fighting occurred near Hart's river, in the southwestern extremity of the Transvaal, between part of General Kitchener's force and the forces of Generals Delarey and Kemp, resulting in the repulse of the Boers after heavy losses on both sides. The Canadian Rifles especially distinguished themselves, one party, commanded by Lieut. Bruce Carruthers, holding its post until every man was killed or wounded.

Lord Kitchener's official report, dated from Pretoria, says:

"General Kitchener (Lord Kitchener's brother) sent Colonel Keir and Cookson from Vreikail, western Transvaal, March 31, to reconnoiter toward Hart's river. They soon struck the track of guns and carried on a running fight for eight miles, following the track through the bush. Emerging on a plain, large Boer reinforcements advanced against their flanks, forcing the British troops to take up a defensible position, which they hastily entrenched. Fighting ensued at close quarters till the Boers were repulsed on all sides. Delarey, Kemp and other leaders vainly attempted to persuade their men to renew the action. Fifteen hundred Boers participated in this engagement, but they suffered too heavily and cleared away to the northwest and south. The British losses also were severe. The Canadian Rifles especially distinguished themselves, one party, commanded by Lieut. Bruce Carruthers, holding its post till every man was killed or wounded. Others of the forces showed great steadiness, allowing the Boers to advance within 200 yards of them and repelling them with a steady rifle fire."

SARGENT ACCEPTS

Succeeds Powderly as Commissioner of Immigration.

Frank P. Sargent, grand master of the brotherhood of locomotive firemen, was tendered the position of commissioner general of immigration. Mr. Sargent accepted the offer, but he told the president it would be necessary to close up his business affairs before he could take charge of the office. The president informed him he could have all the time he wanted. In the meantime he is to familiarize himself with the duties of his new position.

It is understood that the resignations of Messrs. Powderly and McSweeney have been requested, or will be at once. Mr. McMurray will succeed the latter and William Williams will be nominated soon to succeed Commissioner of Immigration Fitchie of New York.

STARTS FOR HOME

Miss Stone Will Begin Lecture Tour Immediately Upon Arrival.

Miss Ellen M. Stone, the American missionary, sailed for New York on the Hamburg-American line steamer Deutschland. Her departure from London was quiet. She will begin lecturing, in aid of missions, almost immediately after her arrival in the United States. The rest which Miss Stone had in England has improved her health, though she was obliged to refuse countless invitations to speak before religious and other bodies. Mr. Choate, the United States ambassador, and Mrs. Choate are greatly interested in the missionary. They entertained her at the embassy at tea Thursday, where Miss Stone gave the diplomatic party a graphic, yet simple, account of her experiences.

RECIROCITY WITH CUBA.

The house committee on ways and means, by a vote of twelve to five, ordered a favorable report on the Payne bill, providing reciprocity with Cuba.

All the republicans, except Metcalf of California and Tawney of Minnesota voted for the report. The democrats voting aye were: Richardson (Tenn.), Swanson (Va.) and McClellan (N. Y.). The democrats voting with Metcalf and Tawney against the bill were Cooper (Tex.), Newlands (Nev.) and Robertson (La.).

The session was animated. Fifteen or twenty amendments were voted on, all being defeated except that offered by Grosvenor, requesting that Cuba adopt the American contract labor law, as well as immigration and extension laws before the reciprocity arrangement shall go into effect.

SENSATIONAL SUICIDE OF WOMAN

Della Tansey of Buffalo Went over the American Falls on the evening of April 3. It was the most sensational cataract suicide in years. The woman jumped over the railing of Goat island bridge about ten feet from shore. William O'Connors of Liverpool, England, who was on the bridge at the time, ran down the shore and waded into the river. A rake was passed to him, which he succeeded in fastening to her clothes. Mrs. Tansey begged piteously to be saved. He tried to draw the woman toward the shore, but her clothing tore and she was carried over the brink of the falls. Two hundred people saw the woman go to her death.

LEON BOUCK IS ACQUITTED.

The jury in the case of Leon Bouck, who eloped from Emerson with Pearl Hopper, 16 years old, and who was put on trial for abduction, has returned a verdict of not guilty by direction of the court.

ESCAPES FROM OFFICER.

City Marshal Metz of Eudora, Kan., was shot and seriously wounded by Clyde Hughes, whom he had arrested for attempted burglary. Metz was on the way to jail with his man, whom he had searched, when the prisoner suddenly drew a revolver and shot him in the head and arm.

The marshal returned the fire, wounding Hughes, but the latter made good his escape and has not been captured. He stopped at Dr. White's, about two miles from Eudora, and had his wounded leg dressed, but no further traces were found.

ATTACKS MERGER

State of Washington Fighting the Combination.

BRINGS ACTION IN THE SUPREME COURT

Case Declared Not Parallel With That of Minnesota's Action—Court of Last Resort the Only Avenue Open—Conspiracy is Charged.

Attorney General Stratton of the state of Washington has entered, in the supreme court of the United States, a motion for leave to file a bill of complaint against the Northern Securities company in behalf of that state. The briefs were accepted by the court. Former Attorney General Griggs appeared for the Securities company. This is the case of merger which Minnesota tried to enjoin, but which action was denied that state by the supreme court on the ground that one of the railroad companies in the deal was a citizen of Minnesota. The Securities company is incorporated in New Jersey, but neither the Northern Pacific nor the Great Northern is a citizen of Washington.

In connection with his motion for leave to file his bill of complaint, Mr. Stratton submitted copies of his bill and a brief in its support. To avoid the objection under which this court refused to entertain the bill of the state of Minnesota against the Northern Securities company, the state of Washington has made the Great Northern Railway company and the Northern Pacific Railway company defendants.

The bill asks for a general order of restraint and injunction, and is a general recital of the acts of merger which it is claimed are in contravention of the laws of the state of Washington prohibiting the consolidation of competing lines or railroads.

The combination is characterized as a conspiracy, and in the brief the legal reasons in support of the action are set forth, among them being the one that unless the supreme court assumes jurisdiction the state is without a forum to which the controversy may be presented.

LEAGUE OFFICER SUICIDES

James Whitfield, of the Western Ball League, Kills Himself.

James Whitfield, president of the Western baseball league, committed suicide at his home in Kansas City, Mo., Monday.

Mr. Whitfield was well known in sporting circles throughout the west. He was actively engaged in baseball as early as the '80s. He was one of the organizers of the original Western league, and was its first president.

The work of organizing the new league proved very great, and since he decided to head the league that is fighting the American association, Mr. Whitfield has toiled night and day. Recently the tax upon him began to tell and for the last two weeks he has been under a physician's care. Monday morning he arose and dressed himself, then, without making any remark, stepped to the next room and fired a bullet into his right temple. He was dead when a member of the family reached him.

OFF FOR CHARLESTON

President Roosevelt and Party Leave for South Carolina Exposition.

President Roosevelt and party left Washington Monday for Charleston, S. C., where he will visit the exposition. The party traveled in a special train over the Southern railroad.

There was a large crowd at the station. The president was in an especially cheerful mood.

The president arrived in Charleston on Tuesday morning. The journey through Virginia was marked by extreme cordiality and enthusiasm and the president exhibited the keenest interest in the historic country through which the train passed.

His reception in Charleston was hearty and cordial.

STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Arranging Program for the May Session.

President Maupin and Secretary Merwin, Editor Ladd of Albion, Editor Williams of Blair, Mr. Tostivan of Omaha and other members of the executive committee of the State Press association were in session in Lincoln Monday preparing the program for the meeting to be held in the capital city May 6 and 7. A list of subjects and speakers previously outlined was definitely approved and a very attractive program arranged. A record breaking attendance is looked for at this meeting.

PATRICK TO DIE IN CHAIR.

Albert Patrick, who was convicted in New York city on March 26 of the murder of William Marsh Rice, has been sentenced by Recorder Goff to be put to death in the electric chair at Sing Sing prison on May 6. An appeal will be made to the court of appeals by Patrick's counsel.

PUTS PRICE ON DUNN'S HEAD.

Governor Stanley and Assistant Attorney General Hamlin, of Kansas, are in Wichita investigating the escape of J. P. Dunn, alleged Arkansas murderer. The governor has offered a reward of \$500 for Dunn's capture and return to Wichita and \$250 for the conviction of the party or parties that aided

DEATH TO END DISGRACE

Wronged Husband in Richardson County Kills Himself.

On the farm of John Mosiman, nine miles northeast of Falls City, Neb., the lifeless body of Joe Mosiman was found in the hay loft of the stable, with a bullet hole through his head. By the side of the body was a rifle. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide.

A wife's unfaithfulness is said to have been what led the man to self-destruction. Some time ago Mosiman went to Oklahoma, and while he was away Grant Sperry, a neighbor, and Mrs. Mosiman established illicit relations. Someone in the neighborhood, aware of this, wrote warning letters to the two, but these were not heeded. Mosiman was then informed, and he came home. To him his wife confessed she had had such relations with Sperry, but claimed she had been forced to do so. Mosiman made an attempt to kill Sperry, but failed to do so. He then, to escape the attached disgrace, committed suicide.

WILL BE RUN FULL TIME

Grand Island Rejoicing Over the Reopening of the Sugar Factory.

The announcement that the Grand Island factory of the American Beet Sugar company will be operated this season causes considerable rejoicing in the community. H. S. Ferrar, manager of the local plant, returned recently from Omaha, where he had a consultation with General Manager Howe of the company. Mr. Howe had just returned from a business trip to New York, where he attended a meeting of the directors, at which meeting it was decided to operate the Grand Island factory, and add to its machinery the latest improved extracting process.

NEGROES WARNED TO LEAVE

Ban Put Upon Them at Lawton, Okl., and Trouble Expected.

The Comanche county, Oklahoma, authorities have wired Governor Ferguson stating that proclamations have been posted all over the city of Lawton warning all negroes to leave town and that the city is wild with excitement and asking the governor if he will order out the territorial national guard if it becomes necessary. Governor Ferguson answered that every Oklahoma militiaman will be sent to Lawton if necessary to protect the colored citizens. The trouble is the result of the city election, when attempts were made to keep the negroes from voting.

WALES TO PAY US A VISIT

High Diplomatic Circles are Discussing Plans, Believed to be far advanced, for a visit by the Prince of Wales to the United States, says the London correspondent of the Times. The administration at Washington is officially forwarding the proposal for the visit, which, it is understood, receives the personal sanction of King Edward, some of whose counselors urge the acceptance of the invitation as a matter of astute state policy. The splendid welcome accorded to the brother of the German emperor is believed to be a forceful influence in this connection.

BEAL JEWELS RESTORED

Railroad Employee Found to Have Secreted Them.

An attorney of Charlotte, N. C., has turned over to an officer fifty-five pearls and seven diamonds, the jewels lost by Mrs. Harriet Blalae Beal on a sleeping car between that city and Jacksonville, Fla., some weeks ago, and a passenger started to Washington with the property. It is said the jewels were produced by a railroad employee who was on the car occupied by Mrs. Beal. He surrendered them on the promise of immunity and prosecution. He value of the necklace is placed at \$5,000.

BOY ACCUSED OF MURDER.

Clarence Hollister, alias Clarence Mackenzie, a nineteen-year-old inmate of the Iowa state reform school at Eldora, has been arrested by Sheriff Colton, of Lake county, Colorado, charged with the murder of J. E. Manshlem and a man named Dixon, September 10, 1901. Hollister was sent to the reform school in 1895, but escaped in 1899, going west. Last year he returned to the school of his own accord.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

George Carson is under arrest at St. Joseph, Mo., and is being held on suspicion of being a member of the gang which held up the Burlington train near there last week.

At Lincoln, Neb., P. Coursey Richards received a sentence of twelve years' imprisonment in the penitentiary for the crime of assaulting his twelve-year-old step-daughter, Marie Magdanz.

While the 6-year-old son of William Forward of Ansley, Neb., was playing with a revolver it was discharged. The ball passed through the boy's neck and he died in a few minutes.

At Omaha, Mrs. P. H. Leary, a demented woman, poured oil over her clothing and set it ablaze. She is in a critical condition, and physicians believe she cannot recover from her burns.

Jealousy of her husband, in connection with melancholia, caused Mrs. Ella Kearns to take chloroform. She will recover. Her husband is elevator conductor at the Paxton hotel, Omaha.

Minnie Ohr, aged ten, fell from a street car in Omaha and was rendered unconscious. Her injuries were not serious.

CITY GREETED TEDDY

Nation's Chief Executive Guest of Charleston, S. C.

THE DAY IS SPENT ON THE WATER

Naval Station Made First Objective Point, After Which a Tour of the Harbor Affords Pleasure to the President—Other News.

The president's train reached Charleston, S. C., on time. The party did not go into the city, but left the train five miles out, where trolley cars were waiting to convey them to the naval station, to take the revenue cutter for a tour of the harbor.

The president and his party were shown about the station and then were conducted to the pier, where the revenue cutter Algonquin was in waiting.

As the president set foot on the deck, the flag of the commander-in-chief of the army and navy was raised and the jockies were paraded, while a salute of twenty-one guns was fired.

In the stream, the cutters Forward and Hamilton were lying, and further down toward the city the cruiser Cincinnati and the training ships Topeka and Lancaster. After the committee and guests had gone aboard, the Algonquin started on a tour of the harbor. Passing down Copper river, a fine view of the city and the opening of the bay was presented. The weather was perfect.

Passing into the bay, Algonquin came abreast of the cruiser Cincinnati, whose decks were manned with all her crew, as well as Topeka and Lancaster. As the president's vessel passed each ship a salute of twenty-one guns was fired. Off the fortifications of Sullivan's island the ship was greeted with the same welcome and it passed out to the ocean amid a chorus of guns.

Just a little run to the sea and Algonquin turned about and re-entered the harbor, passing around historic Fort Sumpter. While standing up the bay luncheon was served in the cabin of the cutter.

A short run was made up the Ashley river, giving a view of the city's western water front, and then the ship was headed back for the landing, where a troop of the Charleston light dragoons was in waiting to escort the president to his headquarters at the St. John hotel.

All the arrangements were excellent and there was not a break in the program. The president seemed in high spirits and entered with keen zest into all the features of the occasion.

WALLER TESTIFIES

Says Gen'l Smith Told Him to Kill and Burn—10 Years the Age Limit.

At Manila, P. I., Maj. Littleton W. T. Waller of the marine corps, at Tuesday's session of the court-martial by which he is being tried on the charge of executing natives of Samar without trial, testified in rebuttal of the evidence given by General Jacob H. Smith, who commanded the American troops in the island of Samar.

The major said General Smith instructed him to kill and burn; said that the more he killed and burned the better pleased he would be; that it was no time to take prisoners, and that he was to make Samar a howling wilderness. Major Waller asked General Smith to define the age limit for killing, and he replied: "Everything over ten." The major repeated this order to Captain Porter, saying: "We do not make war in that way on old men, women and children."

Capt. David D. Porter, Capt. Hiram I. Bearss and Lieut. Frank Halford, all of the marine corps, testified corroboratively.

HERE AND THERE

More or Less Important News Events Briefly Stated.

The Boston brewers are on a strike. Coyotes in Reno county, Kansas, in spite of the bounty, are increasing.

German official circles confirm the report that the shah of Persia will visit Berlin in May.

At Chicago, the plasterers' helpers won their strike for a wage increase. They were out a week.

A company has been organized in New York city which will embark in the extensive raising of cattle in Cuba.

Two persons were killed and fifty injured at a football game at Glasgow, Scotland, by the grandstand collapsing.

Ignatius Sullivan, a clerk in a clothing store in Hartford, Conn., and a member of organized labor, was elected mayor of that city.

United States minister to China has gone from Peking to Shanghai to negotiate a new commercial treaty between China and the United States.

Senor Valdez, editor of a Spanish weekly paper at Manila, has been fined 4,000 pesetas for libeling two Filipino members of the Philippine commission.

Edward Kappel, a well known Buffalo, N. Y., life insurance agent, is under arrest for obtaining \$3,000 from Geo. F. Green, a farmer, under false pretenses.

T. V. Powderly has resigned as commissioner of immigration, but it will not be accepted until Frank P. Sargent, the new appointee, is ready to take hold.

The revolution in Venezuela is again rampant. President Castro has suffered several reverses. The situation of the Venezuelan government is becoming critical.

Milo Pickering, a prominent ranchman, was killed on the streets of Lynch, Neb., in endeavoring to stop a runaway mule team, the wagon tongue striking his breast and killing him almost instantly.

CHINESE MEASURE DRASTIC

The Exclusion Act is Passed by the National House.

A Washington, D. C., dispatch says: The house passed the Chinese exclusion bill after incorporating in it several amendments which increased the drastic character of the measure. The principal one not only excludes Chinese by birth and descent, but all Chinese of mixed blood. The chief struggle was over an amendment to prohibit the employment of Chinese sailors on American ships. An amendment, covering this proposition, was at first ruled out on a point of order, but subsequently was modified to evade the ruling, and adopted, 100 to 74.

As passed the bill practically re-enacts all the existing exclusion laws, and incorporates with them the existing treaty regulations. It extends these exclusion laws to the Philippines and to the other possessions of the United States, and forbids Chinese laborers in our colonial possessions coming into this country. The Philippines commission, by the terms of the bill, is directed to adopt proper measures for the enforcement of the provisions of the bill in the Philippines.

TO SAVE RHEA'S NECK.

Murderer's Attorney Will Make Direct Appeal to Governor.

If the intercessions of the attorney who defended William Rhea while on trial for murder can move Governor Savage to exercise executive clemency, Rhea will not hang on April 25, as he has been sentenced to do by the supreme court. George L. Loomis, who has acted as Rhea's principal counsel from the first, and who has not permitted anything to go undone which might save his client from the gallows, will make a direct appeal to the governor as a last resort.

Mr. Loomis stated that the principal ground on which the governor would be asked to intervene was the division of the supreme court over the propriety of granting a rehearing. Judges Sullivan and Holcomb, a majority of the court, concurred in holding that there was no error in the proceedings of the trial court. Judge Sedgwick, however, held that Rhea might not have been guilty of murder as he interpreted the statute, and filed a separate opinion to that effect.

PURSUIT ABANDONED.

The sheriff, marshal and others, from Nelson, Neb., who were pursuing the Ruskin bank robbers, have returned. The bloodhounds tracked them as far as Belleville, Kan., where the bank directors refused to pay expenses any further, and the chase was abandoned. The owner of the dogs was confident that he would have overtaken them in the next thirty-five or forty miles, but as the bank had plenty of burglar insurance they were not justified in spending any more money in the pursuit.

WILL WORK FOR PEACE.

Sixto Lopez, who for some months lived in Boston, Mass., and claimed to represent Aguinaldo, has returned there from the far east and in an interview said that he was prepared to return to the Philippines and secure final peace, provided the United States gives some intimation to the Philippines, not necessarily of their immediate, but of their ultimate status.

DIED VERY SUDDENLY.

Anna Rineck, an employe in D. A. Bowen's restaurant, at McCook, Neb., suddenly fell over dead. An inquest was held and the coroner's jury decided that the young woman had come to her death from heart disease.

ACCIDENT RESULTED FATALY.

An aged lady named Mrs. Holmes, who has been living with her daughter in Fremont, Neb., fell and broke her leg a week ago. She died from the accident. She was eighty-two years old.

BOHEM WAS DESPONDENT

Nebraska City Butcher, Worried Over Business Troubles, Suicides.

Fritz Boehm, who has kept a large butcher shop in Nebraska City, which he opened there about five months ago, took strychnine Tuesday night, shortly afterwards, despite the efforts of the physicians. It is thought that business trouble was the cause of his death. The deceased was a resident of Utica, Seward county, for twenty years, and was married a short time ago. He was about fifty years of age and leaves a wife. The remains will be taken to Utica for interment.

ASSAULT AND MURDER

Mrs. Carrie Myers, the wife of a bridge worker at Montour, Pa., was found dead by her husband upon his return home from work. All indications point to murder. Mrs. Myers was lying across a bed with her clothing nearly torn from her body. It is believed she was assaulted by some one, who, to protect himself from discovery, murdered his victim.

GRANT 10 PER CENT INCREASE.

A general advance of about 10 per cent in wages of the cotton mill operatives went into effect Tuesday in practically every mill town in the southern part of New England except Fall River.

WILL HEAR ARGUMENT.

The supreme court of the United States decided to hear arguments on next Monday upon the application of the state of Washington to take jurisdiction in the case of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern merger.

NATURAL GAS STRUCK.

A company boring for coal oil and gas in property adjoining Robinson, Ill., struck a vein of gas at a depth of 1,000 feet. When ignited the gas blazed up twenty feet.