

NEW SOLVENT IS GREAT FIND

Removes Paints, Varnishes, Enamels and Shellacs Without Injuring Wood.

WAS DREAM OF ALCHEMISTS

Dissolves Rubber, Glues, Hydrocarbons and Many Substances Heretofore Regarded as Most Resistant to Chemical Agencies.

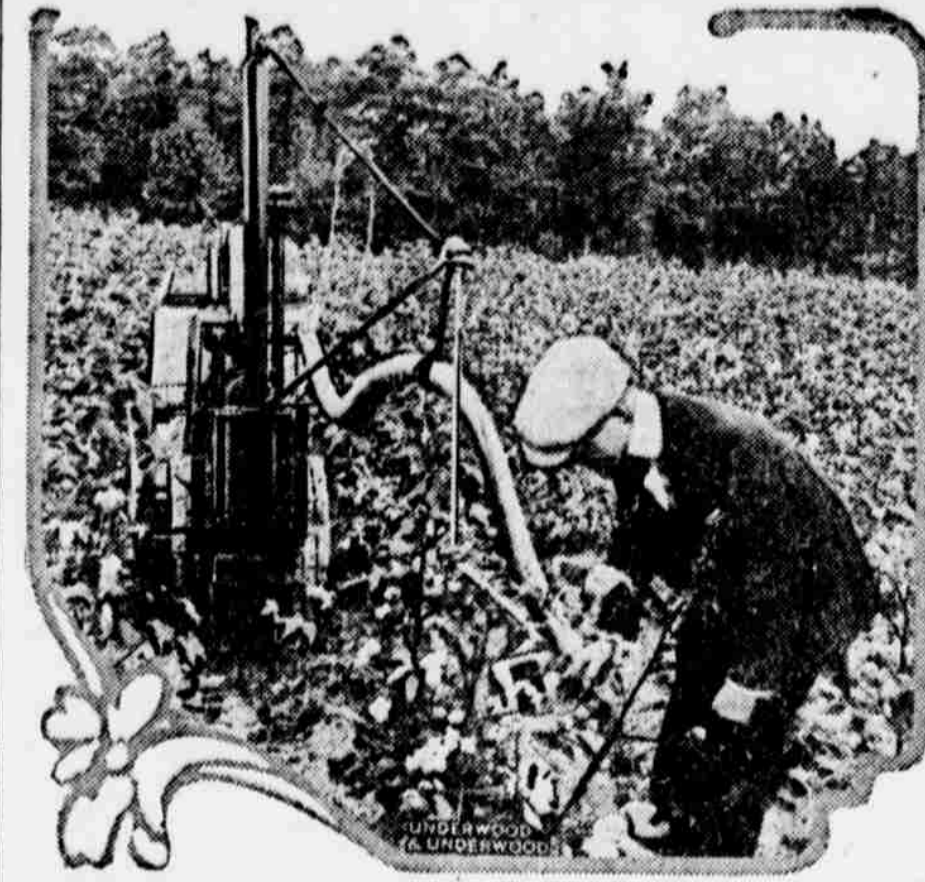
Lincoln, Neb.—New properties of a liquid described before the students of the department of chemistry of the University of Nebraska show that it almost realizes the dream of the alchemists of old who sought the universal solvent.

As described by Dr. Victor Lenher, professor of chemistry at the university of Wisconsin, who has come here to deliver a series of addresses on the subject, further tests have shown that selenium oxychloride as the solvent is called, is more powerful even than was indicated in his preliminary announcement made before the American Chemical Society.

It dissolves rubber, glues, enamels, hydrocarbons and many other substances which hitherto have been regarded as most resistant to all chemical agencies except fire.

Other Substances Dissolved. Such products as redman, bakelite and condensite, which are used as substitutes for amber in the making of pipe stems and for many other industrial purposes, and have been until now regarded as insoluble in all known solvents, are readily dissolved by selenium oxychloride, according to the announcement of Dr. Lenher. By its use ordinary paints, varnishes and shellacs can be removed from furniture and carriages and other objects without injuring the wood, and enamels can be taken from automobiles without affecting the steel body.

New Mechanical Cotton Picker



This combination of a two-headed mechanical cotton picker, operated by a small electric motor and mounted on a compact garden tractor, is said to be able to pick 140 pounds of cotton an hour. After the picking head has removed the burr, the fluffy cotton is drawn by a small blower through the big flexible tubing into a container on the tractor.

Its use ordinary paints, varnishes and shellacs can be removed from furniture and carriages and other objects without injuring the wood, and enamels can be taken from automobiles without affecting the steel body.

"Its solvent powers are so vigorous," said Dr. Lenher, "that it will remove the bitumen from soft coal, but will not attack the pure carbon of anthracite."

Dr. Lenher also sees a military pow-

er in this powerful solvent, as it can be employed in making more porous charcoals contained in the filter material of war gas masks, a process known as activation.

"The coconut charcoal used in the gas mask," continued Dr. Lenher, "can be activated by this new reagent by treatment at ordinary temperatures, which is a considerable advance over the older steam activation at a white heat."

The use of activated charcoal in the extraction of gasoline from natural gas is one which is interesting chemists today, and still leaves the gas available for household and industrial purposes. As a laboratory reagent, Dr. Lenher said that the properties of selenium oxychloride are so unusual that it is likely to come into common use wherever research is conducted.

The solvent, which was formerly regarded as merely a laboratory curiosity, is finding its place in many industries. The original statements concerning its exceptional powers have been amply verified, the speaker asserted, by him and a group of students who have been attracted to the laboratories of the University of Wisconsin during the last year.

Once a Waste Product. The raw material from which it is obtained was once a waste product from the electrolytic refining of copper, for until recently the selenium from these electrolytic slimes, while known to the chemist as a rare element, had been considered as almost valueless.

The solvent itself is a heavy liquid, and nearly odorless. It can be readily handled in a commercial way, however, for were it the "universal solvent" of alchemy it could not be transported, as no vessel could withstand it.

This discovery of everyday uses for a substance formed from discarded material is regarded by scientists as a typical illustration of the value of research.

AMATEUR "FIXES" GAS TANK

Hot Iron—Then Neighbors Called the Police Reserve and the Fire Department.

New York.—"Now then, doggie, we'll have this thing fixed in a jiffy," said William S. Grey to his dog, as he placed a hot soldering iron on a partly filled gasoline tank in the kitchen of his home.

The tank on his auto had been leaking and he decided to fix it.

He had scarcely finished the sentence when the top of the tank went up to the ceiling.

Tenants on the three upper floors rushed to the street, police reserves, firemen and detectives were called and Inspector Callahan of the bureau of combustibles, who was in the neighborhood, ran to the house.

The police entered the apartment to take charge of a corpse, but found only a broken window, a dismembered tank and a perfectly healthy man.

Watch Won't Wake Dead; Owner Jailed

Miami, Fla.—Failure of a watch, buried at the side of Laura Miller's husband's grave, to awaken the dead spouse caused the arrest of Joe Thomas.

The woman gave Thomas \$15 and a gold watch when the latter promised to resurrect her dead husband.

Thomas buried the watch at the side of the grave, saying this action would arouse the dead man.

Several days of "watchful waiting" failed to produce results. Thomas was charged with embezzlement and bound over under a \$600 bond.

AID IS ASKED FOR AUSTRINIANS

World-Famous Physicians Picture Stunted Growth and Diseases From Hunger.

Vienna.—Three internationally known Austrian physicians have joined in a statement to the effect that Austrian children will remain permanently stunted in growth unless adequate relief is given immediately.

The physicians are Dr. Eislerberg, Vienna brain specialist and one of the leading surgeons of the city, and Drs. Lorenz and Pirquet, the latter inventor of the tuberculin test and for two years professor at Johns Hopkins university.

"At the end of juvenile growth the average boys of Vienna are about four inches below normal height and about sixteen pounds below normal weight. Girls are correspondingly stunted," they say.

"We also believe from a medical standpoint these children will never have their normal weight and height, but will go through life in this stunted condition."

NEWS OF STATE TERSELY TOLD

Recent Happenings in Nebraska Given in Brief Items For Busy Readers.

Ord is making preparations to hold a style show.

The state T. P. A. will meet at Omaha April 29 and 30.

Hastings wants to vote on Sunday theatres at the coming election.

Mrs. Frances Reihing died very suddenly of lockjaw, at West Point.

Morgan Krebs of Scotia succeeded by shooting himself with a shotgun.

"The Loup Valley Poultry Association" has just been organized at Ord.

Scottsbluff has organized a Lions club with George Kimbrough as president.

Broken Bow has just organized a Demolay chapter. Sixty boys took the work.

The Columbus fire department will hold its second annual fair April 6 to 9.

An Odell merchant claims to have handled 3,700 dozen eggs in one day recently.

Rev. William Oeschger has resigned as pastor of the Christian church at Valparaiso.

Electric light rates in Elmwood have been boosted to a flat rate of 20 cents per kilowatt.

A drive for 1,000 members is shortly to be conducted by the Beatrice Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hemmett of Burwell celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last week.

The district convention of the state federation of women's clubs will be held at Central City May 3 and 4.

The Ord band has been reorganized for the season, with Tom Wright as manager and Kirby McGrew, leader.

Work on the \$300,000 Valley county court house at Ord has been resumed. Officials expect to occupy it on July 1.

A near race riot resulted at Weeping Water when a local stone company imported Mexican quarry workers.

A lodge of the Order of Demolay will be organized at Beatrice under the auspices of the local Masonic lodge.

Franklin academy students recently netted over \$100 at a circus, the proceeds being turned over to the city schools.

It is probable that the matter of a municipal light and ice plant for Osceola will be voted upon at the spring election.

Seward now has one of the largest fire trucks in the state. It cost the city \$14,000.

Mrs. W. S. Leet of Plattsmouth has been selected as chaplain for the state D. A. R.

Oshkosh beet raisers have signed the sliding scale contract for a \$5.50 per ton minimum proposed by the sugar company.

The Boy Scout Band of forty pieces, of Chadron, will be one of the attractions at the state fair at Lincoln, September 5 to 10.

The Danish societies of Minden celebrated the admission of fifty new members with a banquet at which over 400 were seated.

The regular biennial legislative league banquet will be held this year at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce on the evening of April 4.

Little Edwin Dahlgren, 5 years old, was badly scalded when he fell into a vat of boiling water, which his parents were using in butchering hogs.

Scottsbluff city council has decided to buy four lots a half mile from the center of the business district for camping ground for automobile tourists.

A federal road gang is raising the grade at Turtle Creek on the Loup Valley highway. The state bridge which was put in last fall can now be used.

Fire of mysterious origin started in the basement of the Overland theater at Nebraska City, created considerable damage before it was finally extinguished.

The Rev. Charles Knight Wheeler of Jacksonville, Ala., has taken charge of the pastorate of St. Andrew's Episcopal church at Scottsbluff, which has been without a rector since last December.

Buyers from five states were present at the annual Hereford sale of Kuhlmann Bros., held in Chester. The entire offering of forty head sold at an average of \$165.

While fumigating the Hayslip rooming house at Ansley, the building caught fire and before it was discovered the entire inside was ablaze. This leaves Ansley without a hotel.

Ord Community Service club serves a noon-day lunch every Monday, open for everybody. Traveling men, visitors and women are invited. Ord is said to be the smallest town in the state with this feature.

C. L. Clark of Lincoln, rural high school inspector has been elected superintendent of the Red Cloud city schools.

Secretary J. E. Hart of the department of trade and commerce has named A. D. Touzalin of Omaha, former state bank examiner, as agent in charge of the Castetter bank at Blair.

F. W. True, a young farmer of Bloomfield, who last week marketed his first shipment since he started to farm, was proud to think that his hogs topped the South Omaha market. The 62 head that averaged 107 pounds, sold to a local packer for \$10.50.

The Hebron fire department is organizing a brass band.

Nebraska ranks third in per capita ownership of automobiles.

Farmers in the Dixon neighborhood have about finished plowing and much grain has been planted.

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Norman of Wausau celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary recently. Over a hundred guests were present.

Approximately 100 persons are now engaged in extending the teaching of scientific agriculture and home economics throughout Nebraska.

One case of scarlet fever, under quarantine at Big Springs, has caused local officials to take precautions to prevent a spread of the disease.

An incubator lamp started a fire which totally destroyed the farm home of E. W. McDuffee near Bigspring. But little of the contents was saved.

E. D. Root of Bigspring, new justice of the peace, who has barely passed his majority, is thought to be the youngest man in the state holding this office.

The Big Springs American Legion post is giving dances every two weeks to raise funds to equip their legion hall. So far the dances have been a success.

Raymond Dixson is in a critical condition at York with a fractured skull as a result of being gored by a refractory bull which was being loaded into a stock car.

Farmers of Cheyenne county own 340 gas tractors, according to statistics compiled by the county agent. This is thought to be the largest number per capita in the state.

At a special meeting of the board of directors of the South Omaha Stock Yards William J. Coad was elected a director to fill out the unexpired term of the late Frank T. Ransom.

The Seward city council has granted the petitions of numerous citizens asking that a vote be taken this spring on pool halls. This is expected, will be the main issue of the campaign.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau federation now has a total of approximately 30,000 members in the 30 counties covered to date in the membership campaign, according to Secretary H. D. Lute.

Miss Lillie Jensen, young teacher at the Hinterberg school, southeast of Minden, was killed when an auto in which her 15-year-old brother was taking her to school, skidded and overturned.

The Sidney baseball team is the owner of a loving cup presented by the Denver Post Rocky Mountain tournament. The cup is a beautiful silver one, lined with gold and properly engraved.

Leading men in the educational world have been obtained for the speakers at the annual meeting of District No. 2 of the State Teachers' association which will meet in Omaha March 31 to April 2.

The Northeast Nebraska high school declamatory contest was held at Emerson with the following people winning: Dramatic, Dorothy Hansen, Emerson; first: Elma Carter Carroll, second: humorous, Blanch Morthwig, South Sioux City; first: Neva Riggs, Lyons, second.

After firing his large barn, cattle sheds and other outbuildings in which he had imprisoned his herds of blooded livestock, by piling machinery before the doors, Carl Halin, wealthy farmer living near Holdrege, fired his house and stretching himself upon the bed fired a bullet through his brain.

Nebraska 21 White Kherson oats, of which there is said to be a considerable supply held by farmers of Clay county, have been finding a ready market as seed stock of late. Sales from Nebraska growers were recently made to Flagstaff, Ariz., Kansas Experiment Station, Colorado Agricultural College and to county agents in Moffat and Logan counties, Colorado.

The great slump in the value of farm products in Nebraska is revealed in a bulletin of agricultural statistics recently published by the State Department of Agriculture. The 1920 corn crop, though much larger, is valued at 100 million dollars less than the 1919 crop. Cattle on farms in 1920 are valued at 100 million dollars less than in 1918. The hogs in the state in 1918 were worth 61 million dollars, 42 millions in 1919, and 28 millions in 1920.

The 1920 alfalfa crop dropped to a value of 35 millions, compared to 64 millions the previous year, while last year's wild hay crop was worth but little more than a third of the 1919 crop. Horses show a drop of 25 million dollars less than the 1919 crop. Even the oats crop of last year was worth 11 million dollars less than in 1919.

The district convention of the state Kiwanis clubs will be held in Omaha April 14.

Mrs. Lucy Minor, negress, dropped dead while attending services at the A. M. E. church at Nebraska City. After testifying she took her seat, gasped and died before medical assistance could arrive.

Railroad officials announce an order discontinuing the 35 per cent increase on live stock freight rates, made when the railroads were turned back by the government. This order will go into effect April 1 and remain in force until July 15, 1921.

Blue laws for children are to be enforced from now on in Burwell. Children will not be allowed to ride bicycles, use roller skates or play marbles in the streets.

Harry B. Reed, for many years employed in the postoffice at Columbus, has been appointed temporary postmaster to take the place of S. E. Marty, who is to retire.

The first week in April is to be "corn meal week" in Nebraska. This movement is favored by the State Retail Dealers' association and is calculated to create a market for some of the surplus corn of Nebraska.

FOLLOW PARTY LINE

LOWER HOUSE ADOPTS JOINT CONFERENCE REPORT ON FILLING VACANCIES

CALLS FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

Measure Provides Rules for Governor to Follow When Required to Fill Vacancies in Congress or the State Legislature

Lincoln—By a vote of 74 to 5, the house adopted the joint conference committee report to H. R. 73, requiring the governor when filling a vacancy in the United States senate, the congress or the legislature, to name one of the same political affiliations as the previous incumbent. The senate tackled on three amendments and must give and take. Two were accepted and one cast aside. A new proviso was added which requires the governor to call a special election when a vacancy occurs in the office of representative in congress and the body in which such vacancy exists will convene prior to the next general election. Such election to be held at the earliest possible time and ten days notice be given.

One senate amendment which the house accepts, strikes out reference to appointment of a representative of the United States for the reason that the federal constitution outlines procedure in such cases. An amendment to the title also was accepted. The senate amendment which was cast aside contained in substance the matter which the conference group added. It was not, however, in form pleasing either to the house or the conference committee.

Banking Bill Unanimously Adopted. The cooperative banking bill passed the house on third reading without a dissenting vote. It provides for the establishment of such banks, limits capital stock holdings to 4 per cent per stockholder, limits interest payment to 10 per cent and allows patronage dividends to stockholders. It also carries a provision for a guarantee fund distinct from that applicable to commercial and savings banks. This is one of two bills which, it has been said, the farmers particularly desire. The other is the state hall insurance bill which passed the house and is now in the senate.

Many Welfare Bills Killed. Nineteen of the twenty-nine "child welfare" bills introduced in the lower branch of the Nebraska legislature, are dead. Four of them have passed the house and are now in the hands of the senate. Six others are on sitting file in the house, for such disposition as the membership sees fit to make of them.

The movie censorship bill is not included in this enumeration. It was introduced as an addition to the "child welfare" series, but has been generally classed as one of them. It has also passed the house and is awaiting action by the senate.

Agree to Salary Changes. All senate amendments raising salaries of county judges above the scale fixed by the house when it passed H. R. 70, have been agreed to by conference committees of the two legislative branches. The senate is to recede, however from other amendments which it added to the bill allowing assistants to county judges in all counties having more than 3,000 population and fixing their pay. Only Lancaster and Douglas counties are thus provided for in the house bill.

Provide For State Flag. Only one vote was cast in opposition to the Williams bill for a state flag to be designed by a special commission. The bill specifies that the emblem and motto of the state seal shall appear in lettering of gold and silver on a field of blue, with the goldenrod on the upper margin, as the principal features of the state banner. Its use for advertising purposes is forbidden.

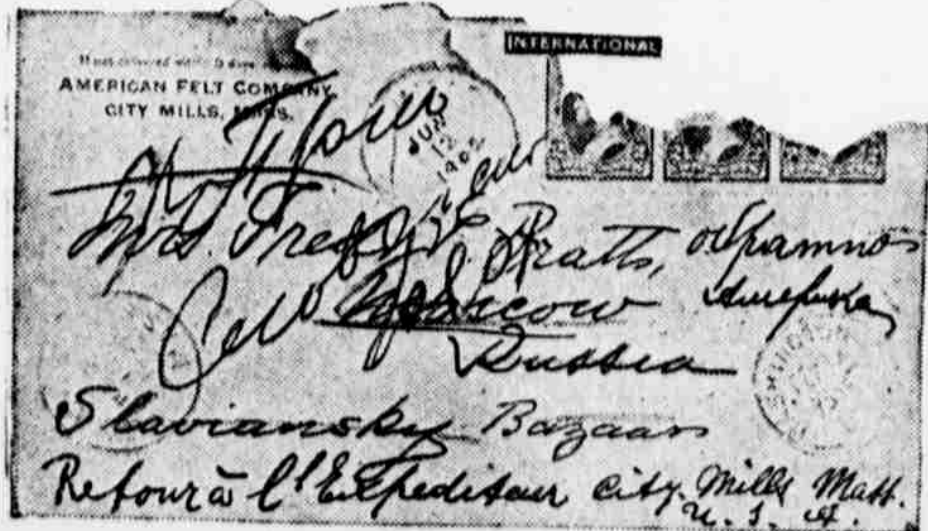
Reward Offered for Bank Wrecker. State Sheriff Gus Hyers has offered \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of F. H. Claridge, Blair banker, who disappeared and who was said to have left his automobile in Omaha after leaving Blair. Claridge's disappearance brought about an investigation of bank affairs that disclosed a serious condition. The bank was taken over by the state department.

Apportionment Bill Through House. Nebraska's proposed new legislative apportionment cutting up the large counties into separate districts for the election of state senators and representatives has finally passed the lower assembly and will now go to the senate.

Draft New Blue Sky Bill. A new blue sky act for Nebraska drafted by the state bureau of securities, was ratified by the house of representatives in the passage of H. R. 408. This bill will undoubtedly be the foundation of any blue sky legislation which may be enacted.

Senate Passes Several Measures. The senate passed the house bill for the voluntary consolidation of cities and villages with Lincoln, adopted Sturm's resolution instructing regents of the university to reduce fees charged students, and approved the bill from the house amending the state hall insurance law, and another bill requiring officers of insurance companies to be gentlemen without tlemish of character. The Lincoln merger bill if signed by the governor will go into effect in three months.

Letter Traveled Nineteen Years



This is a photograph of the envelope containing a letter written and mailed in 1902, and which has just been delivered to Mrs. Fred L. Pratt at Dedham, Mass. The letter was addressed to Mrs. Pratt, who was visiting in Moscow, Russia. It arrived there after her departure, and has since, according to the many postmarks, passed through Germany, France, England and other European countries. It was finally sent back to the United States.