

News from Over the State

John Blair Must Explain.

The weeks that Buelah Thomas, of Arborville, was missing were spent by the girl in the attic of John Blair. Buelah was found in Blair's dwelling and returned to her home. Her story that she was at Blair's but one night, but the sheriff has evidence that all the time he and his deputies, aided by bloodhounds, were endeavoring to discover trace of her Blair was assisting her to remain in hiding. Buelah Thomas is the 16-year-old beauty about whom so much has been written in the last few months. She was the complaining witness in an assault case, in which Blair was defendant, and which was continued owing to her mysterious disappearance. Blair is a wealthy farmer and the girl is infatuated with him. The Thomas family maintains that Blair is a hypnotist and has had their daughter charmed. The trial for assault will now be held at once, but it is not believed the girl will testify against Blair.

Lewis Bice, a young man employed by John Blair near Arborville as hired man, was later arrested and placed in jail. Officers with a warrant charging Bice with attempting to interfere with the administration of justice by hiding and secreting Buelah Thomas, arrested Bice at the Blair home and took him to York. The report is that on Sunday night, November 13, Lewis Bice drove near a bridge or creamery near the Thomas home and tied his team, walking to the Thomas house, where he is said to have found Miss Thomas as she stepped out of the house, and she either voluntarily accompanied him to where the team was, or he by force took her to the team, and they then drove to Blair's house, where Miss Thomas is supposed to have been secreted all the time until Monday night, when county officers arrested Blair on the same charge and when searching the house found Miss Thomas. The strangest part of all is how Miss Thomas could have all this time been at Blair's house and no one discovered it, or any information leaked out. Blair has three daughters attending school who never told, and a part of the time Blair's house was watched, as the father of Miss Thomas accused Blair of having abducted his daughter or being instrumental in kidnapping her. On the eventful Sunday night John Blair, who is said to not be a regular church attendant, was one of the first to enter the church at Arborville, and as the abduction of Miss Thomas occurred at church time suspicion was not directed so strongly against Blair, who was known by a large number to have been at church at the time of the abduction.

Open House for Teachers.

Superintendent Fowler has issued invitations to county superintendents, teachers and others to an "at home" at his office in the statehouse on New Year's. The teachers who are to attend the state meeting at that time will be entertained at receptions at other places as well. On Friday afternoon a reception will be held at Memorial hall by the teachers of Lincoln and the faculty of the university in honor of ex-Chancellor Canfield. Thursday afternoon the Latin department of the university will entertain in honor of Dr. Hale at the home of Prof. Barber.

To Close the Saloons.

Secretary Davis, of the state board of charity and corrections, has returned from a trip to Grand Island, where he reported the home to be in excellent condition and the inmates well satisfied. However, Mr. Davis still adheres to his former contention that the soldiers would fare much better if the Grand Island liquor houses were so far away that the soldiers could not get to them. He still maintains also that the cripples and widows at the home should be removed to Milford in the interest of peace and harmony.

Girls Start to See World.

Two girls about 15 years old, from Avoca, instead of going to school one day concluded to leave home and parents and see a little high life. They braved the rigors of snowstorm and pulled into Eagle in the evening to stop with a friend over night. The town marshal placed them under arrest until their parents arrived the next day and took them home.

Mickey Favors State Accountant.

Now that the books of former Adj. Gen. Colby have been taken before the federal grand jury, Gov. Mickey has been constrained to remark that the legislature made a mistake when it failed to pass an act to have appointed a state accountant whose business it would be to check up the books of the various state institutions and offices at any time.

Corn Sheller Caused Death.

Herbert Crozier, a young farmer near Columbus, who lost his entire right arm in a corn sheller, died two days later in a hospital.

Ex-Senator Lowe's Indictment.

The indictment returned by the federal grand jury at Omaha against ex-Senator Lowe, of Alma, contained two counts, and charges conspiracy to violate section 1781 of the revised statutes, by conspiring to bribe Senator Charles H. Dietrich, by acting as intermediary in the payment of \$400 in consideration of which J. B. Billings, who at the time of the alleged transaction was postmaster at Alma, was to receive the recommendation of the senator for reappointment. The evidence on which Lowe was indicted is said to have been given by J. B. Billings, ex-postmaster in Alma. It was to the effect that when he applied to Senator Dietrich for reappointment he was told that State Senator Lowe had been given the privilege of naming the postmaster in Alma and that a recommendation from Lowe would receive his (Senator Dietrich's) indorsement. Billings further testified, according to published reports, that he paid Lowe \$400, and later J. C. Mitchell was appointed to succeed him. Billings testified that the \$400 was returned to him with the statement that Mitchell had been recommended because of his payment of a larger sum of money.

Calls in Warrants.

State Treasurer Mortensen issued two calls for general fund warrants for the month of December. One for \$40,000 numbered from 92,860 to 93,198, maturing December 15, and a second for \$50,000, maturing December 21. A large part of the receipts of money during December is due to the new revenue law which makes personal taxes payable on December 1 instead of February, as it was under the old law. From the returns received from the various county treasurers it is evident that the new law is being observed generally, notwithstanding its fate is still in the hands of the supreme court.

Fifteen Days Too Late.

E. Hunger, of Lincoln, deputy state game warden, arrived at Dakota City and had a warrant issued for George Johns, of Homer, charging him with unlawfully killing a deer on November 30. The open season for deer in Nebraska is from August 15 to November 15, and the penalty for pursuing, wounding or killing deer at any other time is punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$300, or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 90 days.

Increase in Game Permits.

A considerable increase in the number of persons who have taken out hunting and fishing licenses during the last season will be shown by the returns which are now being compiled by Warden Carter. Last year more than 2,600 licenses were issued, and on Monday Mr. Carter estimated that there would be from 600 to 700 above that figure when the returns from the county clerks are all in.

Blind Pupils May Tour.

Prof. Morey, superintendent of the institute for the blind, at Nebraska City, is so proud of the work done by his pupils and so anxious that the public should know what a blind boy or girl may be taught to do that he has asked the governor's permission to select a company from the inmates and give entertainments in the larger towns this winter.

Started Fire with Kerosene.

In a fire which partially destroyed the home of George Trullinger, of Nebraska City, Mrs. Trullinger and her infant babe were fatally burned. The woman attempted to start a fire with kerosene which exploded, setting fire to her clothing and that of the child and both were frightfully burned before assistance reached them.

Death of Dean Edgren.

Word was received at Lincoln of the death of Dean A. H. Edgren, of the University of Stockholm, Sweden. Dean Edgren went to Sweden 18 months ago. For many years he was dean of the graduate school of the University of Nebraska and held the chair of Romantic languages. He was the author of several text books.

Would Welcome a Suit.

Gov. Mickey would gladly welcome a suit to test his right to appoint a deputy labor commissioner, deputy game warden, deputy veterinarian and deputy oil inspector.

Kennedy Gets a Place.

Crawford Kennedy, of Lincoln, who has been confidential secretary of Republican Chairman Lindsey, was appointed to a position in the senate post office at a salary of \$1,440.

Entered Third Homestead.

Henry Hollenbeck, who recently died near Plattsmouth, located in Cass county in 1860, entering the third homestead filed by Uncle Sam.

For Beating His Wife.

Charles N. Anderson, living near Pierce, is under arrest for beating his wife. Charges were preferred by the woman's father.

A SHERIFF HELD UP.

Two Bandits Relieved Him of His Watch and Money and Afterwards Robbed the Depot Agent.

Galena, Kan., Dec. 14.—Baxter Springs, seven miles southwest of Galena, experienced the nerviest hold-up Saturday night since the robbing of the Baxter bank by the Jesse James gang over a quarter of a century ago. Many people were in the depot awaiting the midnight Kansas City train, when the sheriff of this county, Charles Rains, walked in and, shoving his gun into the face of Clarence Cunningham, wanted for jail breaking at Columbus, ordered "hands up." Cunningham's hands went up, but had scarcely reached the level of his head before his partner at his side shoved his gun in the sheriff's face and repeated the "hands up" command. Sheriff Rains' hands went up as promptly as had Cunningham's. Rains was then relieved of his gun, watch and \$4 in money by Cunningham while his partner kept his gun leveled on the officer.

The two bandits then marched Rains to the train and, after putting him on, returned his revolver to him, saying that he might keep it, as it was too small for their business. As soon as the train pulled out they again entered the depot, held up the agent and robbed the till of what money it contained. The two men then coolly walked downtown, entered a livery stable, passed a whisky bottle around and engaged in conversation in the office as if nothing had occurred, while waiting for a man to get a team ready.

A SHORTAGE OF BABIES.

The Bishop of Indiana Says the Baptisms of Infants Has Decreased Fifty Per Cent. in Fourteen Years.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 14.—Right Rev. Joseph M. Francis, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Indiana, declares that the shortage of babies in the church is alarming and that the homes of wealthier members of the church in Indiana have an average of only about one child to the family.

"Women in the finer homes do not want babies now-a-days," said Bishop Francis last night. "We have a constantly increasing number of adult baptisms, but the baptism of infants is decreasing. This is not because they do not have their babies baptized but because there are fewer babies. The living church annual, the Episcopal Almanac for the year, just published shows how alarming is this shortage of babies in the church. The number of baptisms of infants has decreased 50 per cent. in 14 years. This is in face of an increase of communicants. Not only is there a shortage of babies in our church, but all over the land, in the wealthiest homes. It appears like a repetition of the career of France."

Attorney General Crow Seriously Ill.

St. Louis, Dec. 14.—It was learned last night that Attorney General E. C. Crow, who since his return from New York last week had been convalescing from a severe cold at the residence of A. C. Steuwer, suffered a relapse yesterday and is in a serious condition, suffering with heart trouble and threatened with pneumonia.

A Well-Known Commission Man Dies.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 14.—Andrew J. Snider, aged 70 years, from 1870 until 1889 one of the most prominent commission men in Kansas City and for 33 years closely identified with the development of the live stock industry in the southwest, died this morning at his home of infiltrated carcinoma of the stomach.

Takes Babe to Jail with Her.

Hannibal, Mo., Dec. 13.—Ethel Curtis, who was given a sentence of three months in the county jail on being convicted of peace disturbance in Justice Smith's court, took her infant babe to jail with her on being locked up yesterday. The child will remain with her.

A Negro Veteran Frozen to Death.

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 14.—William Hilliard, a negro veteran, was found frozen to death in Mount Muncie cemetery Saturday evening. Hilliard was slightly demented and wandered from the soldiers' home hospital early in the morning. He was lying beside a tombstone when discovered.

Former Associate of Jay Gould.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Dec. 14.—Judge James Cheney, said to be the wealthiest man in the state, died yesterday, aged 86 years. He was associated with Jay Gould in financing his affairs in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. His fortune was estimated at \$25,000,000.

A Flour Mill at Omaha Burned.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 14.—The flour mill, together with its contents, located at Thirteenth and Lake streets and owned by the Model Milling company, was burned last night, causing a loss of \$50,000; insurance unknown.

President Civil Service Commission Dead. Washington, Dec. 14.—John R. Proctor, of Kentucky, 59 years old, president of the United States civil service commission, died at the Cosmos club here Saturday. He became suddenly ill at the club about ten o'clock

ED BUTLER IS FREE.

Missouri Supreme Court Holds Him Not Guilty of Bribery.

Board of Health Had No Right to Award Garbage Contract Hence Butler Could Not Bribe a Member of It, Says the Court.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 10.—The supreme court reversed the decision of the lower court in the case of Col. Edward Butler, of St. Louis, convicted at Columbia, Mo., in October, 1902, of attempted bribery, and discharged the prisoner. The specific charge against Col. Butler was that he offered a bride of \$2,500 to Dr. Henry M. Chapman, a member of the St. Louis board of health, to induce Chapman to use his influence in having the board award the garbage contract to the St. Louis Sanitary company, a corporation in which Butler was interested. The jury fixed his punishment at three years in the state penitentiary. Butler immediately took an appeal to the supreme court and has been out on bond since then. Final arguments on the appeal were heard by the supreme court October 13, 1903.

The opinion was written by Judge Fox and was concurred in by all other judges. The court holds that the board of health had no authority to let the garbage contract, but that this power belonged to the board of public improvements. The board of health, having no authority to award this contract, the defendant could not bribe members to do something which they had no authority to do. The court quotes many decisions sustaining his position and holds that the trial court should have sustained a demurrer to the indictment. The court holds also that the ordinance under which the contract was awarded was not signed by the mayor until September 17, 1901, hence it was not in effect, and no bribery could have taken place as the evidence showed that the attempt was not made until September 16.

DEPARTURE WAS SUDDEN.

Bryan's Son-in-Law and His Bride Leave the Home of Thomas J. Akins at Humansville, Mo.

St. Louis, Dec. 10.—Forgetting or abandoning his ambition to go to congress from the Seventh Missouri district, William Homer Leavitt and his bride, who was Miss Ruth Bryan, have left Humansville, Mo., and are now on their way to St. Louis. The Leavitts, since their marriage, about two months ago, have been the guests of Miss Zoe Akins, daughter of Thomas J. Akins, at her father's home in Humansville. The recent actions of his son-in-law have not, it is said, contributed greatly to the reconciliation of Col. Bryan to the match. It is announced that the Leavitts will not return to Humansville, and if Mr. Leavitt runs for congress in the Seventh district he will have to find some other base of support and some other sponsor than Chairman Akins, it is said.

A School-Teacher Roughly Treated.

Sullivan, Ind., Dec. 10.—Miss Erlene Sinclair, the 19-year-old school-teacher of the Parks schoolhouse, this county, who was overpowered by her unruly pupils Tuesday, tied to a hog trough and placed for two hours in a pond of icy water, until only her head was above the surface, swore out warrants for assault and battery against each of six girls and for riot against them all collectively.

It Will Oppose Bryan.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 10.—A number of anti-free silver democrats who have not been prominent in Nebraska politics since Bryan was nominated in 1896, are negotiating for the Post, in this city, and will publish an "old-line" democratic daily newspaper.

Democratic National Committee Called. Washington, Dec. 10.—James K. Jones, chairman of the democratic national committee, has issued a call for the committee to meet here Tuesday, January 12, for the purpose of deciding upon the time and place of holding the democratic national convention.

Duty Made Him Shoot His Friend.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 10.—Private Thomas Burton, of company E, Second infantry, who is said to have been attempting to desert, was shot and dangerously wounded here by Private George Hood. Hood was a warm personal friend of the man he shot.

Women Start Fight on Cigarettes. Wichita, Kan., Dec. 10.—A delegation of women, representing the W. C. T. U., presented a resolution to the city council demanding that the sale and giving away of cigarettes and cigarette papers be prohibited in Wichita.

Bold Robbery of a Jeweler's Window.

St. Louis, Dec. 10.—An unknown man hurled a stone through the window of the E. H. Kostkamp Jewelry company, 612 North Broadway, last night, seized a tray of diamond rings valued at \$6,000 and escaped.

Abbott, Tex., Destroyed by Fire.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 10.—A telephone station that the entire business portion of the town has been destroyed by fire.

NOT FOR THE HANGMAN.

Ernest Cashel, Condemned to Die at Calgary, N. W. T., Made Daring Escape from Mounted Police Barracks.

Calgary, N. W. T., Dec. 12.—Ernest Cashel, sentenced to death for murder, made a daring and successful attempt to escape from the mounted police barracks here. When his cell was searched shortly after six o'clock p. m., Cashel pulled two revolvers on three guards and ordered them into the cell just vacated. He locked the door and demanded the keys for his shackles, which he unlocked. He then made his escape from the building. John Cashel, a brother of the murderer, who visited the barracks in the afternoon, has been arrested on suspicion of having furnished Ernest with the revolvers. Cashel was to have been hanged Tuesday next. He is 21 years old.

A CANAL TO THE GULF.

Kansas and Oklahoma Implement Dealers Fostering a Scheme for Cheaper Transportation.

Wichita, Kan., Dec. 12.—Just before it adjourned yesterday afternoon the Southern Kansas and Oklahoma Hardware and Implement Dealers' association adopted a resolution recommending that congress make appropriation for a survey with a view to building a canal from the headwaters of the Missouri river through the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas for the purpose of affording better transportation to the gulf at cheaper rates than can be had at present. It also was urged that the country through which it would pass would be given a chain of lakes and reservoirs to be used for irrigating purposes.

A Tiny Baby.

Pueblo, Col., Dec. 12.—Mr. and Mrs. Herndon, of this city, are the proud parents of what is thought to be the tiniest baby girl in the world. The "midget" was born November 27, and when six days old weighed 29 ounces. Its finger measures one-half inch and its foot 1 1/4 inches. Mother and babe are at the city hospital. On account of the faintness of the latter, it was thought best to procure an incubator, so sufficient and regular heat might be maintained.

Wichita-Fort Smith Line Chartered.

Guthrie, Ok., Dec. 12.—The Wichita, Oklahoma & Indian Territory Railway company, of Perry, Ok., with a capital stock of \$6,000,000, was chartered here to construct a line from Wichita, Kan., through the counties of Sumner, Sedgwick and Harper, Kan., thence through Garfield, Grant, Noble and Payne counties in Oklahoma, and through the Creek, Cherokee and Choctaw nations, in Indian territory, to Fort Smith, Ark., a distance of 300 miles.

Acres and Condition of Wheat.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The 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 32,000,000 acres, a decrease of six per cent. from the area estimated to have been sown in the fall of 1902. The condition of winter wheat on December 1 was 86.6, as compared with 93.7 in 1902, 86.7 in 1901 and a nine year average of 92.7.

Resolutions by Anti-Saloon League.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The American Anti-Saloon league yesterday adopted the report of the committee on resolutions. These pronounced the saloon to be the greatest criminal the world has known. Congress was commended for refusing to repeal the anti-canteen law and asked to further appropriate for post exchanges and furnish suitable places for recreation and amusements for the soldiers.

Wheat Rotting in Kansas.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 12.—Three million bushels of wheat are stored in over-crowded elevators, open wagons and on the ground in Ellis county, Kan., because the Union Pacific cannot move them to Kansas City, according to John Schlyer, grain and implement dealer at Hays City.

Cement Plant at Fort Scott Burned.

Fort Scott, Kan., Dec. 12.—The Fort Scott Hydraulic Cement company's plant here was entirely destroyed by fire yesterday evening. The plant was the oldest cement mill in eastern Kansas and much of the cement used in Missouri and Kansas was made there.

The Blairs Leave for Florida.

St. Louis, Dec. 12.—It was learned last night that Mr. and Mrs. James L. Blair quietly left the Mullanphy hospital Thursday night, drove to the union station and departed for some point in Florida, presumably Eustis.

Thrashing Machine Killed Two.

Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 12.—William Bradburn, 35, was instantly killed and I. B. Moore, 50, fatally injured by being crushed between a thrashing engine and a wheat separator yesterday afternoon.

Burglar Killed at Newton, Ia.

Newton, Ia., Dec. 12.—Lars Lunds, claiming St. Paul (Minn.) as his home, was shot and killed as he was in the act of burglarizing the home of Henry Held here.