

NEBRASKA NEWS

MEMBER OF SHUMWAY JURY
BLOWS OUT BRAINS.

UNABLE TO EASE CONSCIENCE

Worry Since Death Sentence Was
Passed Thought to Have Been
Partial Cause for the Act—
Other State News.

John F. Peters, a prominent farmer, living one mile west of Beatrice and one-half mile north of the old Linden Tree park, committed suicide in a most horrible manner. Upon returning home from a shopping trip to Beatrice his wife found a note written in German on the dining room table addressed to her which read as follows: "Dear Annie, all I have is yours. Do with it the best you can as I am going to leave you now. JOHN."

Surmising that something was wrong, Mrs. Peters ran to the house of a neighbor to summon help. Upon their return Mr. Peters was found in an outbuilding with the entire top of his head blown off. He had placed the barrel of a shot gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger, the charge killing him instantly and scattering his brains and parts of his skull around the building.

It is thought he brooded over his part in the jury verdict in the Shumway murder trial.

PROF. SCOTT TO GO TO AMES.

Nebraska Forestry Expert Called to Iowa State College.

Charles A. Scott supervisor of the Niobrara, Dismal River and North Platte national forests and superintendent of the government forest nursery and planting station at Halsey, Neb., has been elected to the position of professor of forestry in the Iowa State College. Notice of his election by the board of trustees was received and Mr. Scott wired his acceptance in return. Mr. Scott has been in charge of the government nursery and planting station at Halsey since its inception.

WILL SOON BE FINISHED.

Lane Cutoff of the Union Pacific Is Nearly Completed.

Thirty days more will suffice to finish building the Lane-South Omaha cutoff of the Union Pacific, which is to cut out the famous "ox bow" between Omaha and Fremont on the great overland road. That time is the opinion of railway men and contractors watching its progress.

When that work is done the Union Pacific has only to ballast and lay track before it can run such of its trains as it pleases over the road, and thus save nine or ten miles of distance. The cost of the whole vast structure of fills and cuts, trestles, conduits and the like is estimated at not far from \$3,000,000.

The Union Pacific is building the culverts and Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins doing the grading. Together they have about 500 men employed.

Disastrous Fire at Stanton.

At Stanton the blacksmith shop occupied by the Hoehne Bros., as a blacksmith shop and by Jacob Becker as a wagon shop was discovered to be on fire early one morning. Adjacent to the blacksmith shop is the feed and sale barn occupied by E. M. Locke. Fire was communicated to it. The horses were removed, however, and most of the buggies. This building was also entirely destroyed. In it were about three hundred and fifty bushels of grain, a quantity of hay, five sets of harness and some other property that was entirely destroyed with the barn. The building occupied by Fred Schmitz as a grocery also took fire, but the company succeeded in saving it. The Hoehne blacksmith shop is a total loss with no insurance. The Locke barn is also entirely destroyed. It will take fully \$2,000 to replace the barn. The insurance on the old one was only \$800. The damage to the Schmitz building will amount to from \$25 to \$50, and is fully covered by insurance. Hoehne Bros., carried no insurance and their loss will amount to almost \$2,000.

Exeter Banks Combine.

Through a deal recently completed two banks located at Exeter will hereafter be under the same ownership and management, though their separate organization will be maintained. Wallace & Co., private bankers, have purchased the entire capital stock and property of the Exeter State Bank. Each institution will retain its old name. The Wallace Co., bank has \$50,000 capital and the Exeter State bank \$25,000. W. H. Wallace holds control.

PAYS THE DEATH PENALTY.

Frank Barker Hanged at the Penitentiary.

Frank Barker was hanged Friday, January 17, afternoon at the Nebraska penitentiary for a double murder committed nearly four years ago.

Governor Sheldon, to whom the prisoner had appealed after the courts had refused relief and had declared him sane, refused to interfere with the execution of the death sentence. Barker's attorney then applied again to the supreme court for a stay of execution and leave to file a motion for a rehearing in the insanity proceedings. Judge Letton and Judge Reese of the supreme court were visited personally by Judge Hamer on behalf of Barker's last application for a stay of execution. They conferred with Chief Justice Barnes by telephone at his home in Norfolk and denied the application of Judge Hamer. The latter applied to District Judge Frost, but got nothing and then sought Judge Cornish of the district court.

Warden Beemer of the penitentiary waited till within three minutes of 3 o'clock before he consented to the hanging. The drop fell and Barker was dead in twelve minutes. He walked to the scaffold calmly and made no statement. He had previously talked with Governor Sheldon and made a plea for a reprieve.

The crime for which Frank Barker was punished with death on the scaffold was the murder of Daniel and Alice Barker, his brother and sister-in-law.

It was one of the most cold-blooded assassinations that has ever taken place in the history of crime in Nebraska. Frank Barker murdered his victims in the hope of gaining possession of a few chattels, worth, perhaps, less than one thousand dollars.

The deed was committed about midnight, January 31, 1904, on the Arnold ranch, seven miles from Red Cloud, Webster county. Frank Barker stealthily entered the house of his brother and while he and his wife lay asleep, killed them, firing several shots into their bodies at close range.

Then the murderer carried the lifeless, bleeding remains of his relatives from the house and buried them under the cattle shed. The next morning the assassin reported with other men to cut ice a short distance from the Barker home.

During the day he remarked that he had bought out his brother, paying \$1,000 for his chattels. He mentioned that Dan and his wife had decided to remove to Denver and had gone to Red Cloud the night previous to take the early morning train. This was not believed, and investigation led to the discovery of the crime.

MURDER AT HAYES CENTER.

Harrison Weeks Is Shot to Death by Supposed Insane Man.

Harrison Weeks was shot and killed the other day by Herbert A. Robb at North Platte. He was shot with a muzzle loading gun. The charge entered the left eye and shattered that side of the head. The murderer, who was insane, wanted Weeks to settle an imaginary claim and demanded \$500, a quarter section of land and twenty head of cattle. Weeks laughed at him, when the murderer told him to say his prayers as he was about to die and then shot him. Robb was captured and bound over to the district court for trial.

State Accountant Visits Peru.

On the invitation of President J. W. Crabtree, state accountant E. P. Fairfield made an official visit to Peru and the state normal school this week. His mission was to assist in introducing a better plan of bookkeeping for the normal. He expressed himself as pleased with what he saw of the school and its business methods, and suggested a new form of ledger and other excellent improvements in accounting for the expenditure of public funds. Accountant Fairfield is making the rounds of the various state institutions in an effort to introduce into all these institutions a uniform system of accounts, he being a practical bookkeeping expert, having served for years as bookkeeper at the state penitentiary.

Dairy and Poultry Statistics.

Labor Commissioner John J. Ryder is prepared to make an earnest effort to obtain statistics in regard to dairy and poultry. He hopes eventually to secure a reliable statement of the production in Nebraska. In beginning the work he will send blanks to merchants in the various towns of the state and to all persons engaged in dairy work, if he can obtain the names.

Boy Loses an Arm.

William Selby a fourteen-year-old youth, while out hunting at Nebraska City, by the accidental discharge of a shotgun which he was poking out a rabbit, had his right arm torn off at the elbow. The boy was taken to a surgeon's office and never complained when the wound was dressed, but sat up and told how the accident occurred.

WILL IT COME TO THIS?



News Note—A Fairbanks Club of Six-Footers Has Been Organized in Chicago.

HARRIMAN MUST ANSWER

Federal Court So Instructs the Railroad Magnate.

He Had Refused to Reply to Questions Asked By Interstate Commerce Commission.

New York.—E. H. Harriman was directed, in a decision given by Judge Hough in the United States circuit court Thursday to answer all questions propounded to him by the interstate commerce commission, except those relating to the purchase of Union Pacific railroad stock in connection with the dividend of August, 1906.

Judge Hough also directed Otto H. Kuhn, of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., to answer all questions asked him by the interstate commerce commission.

The questions to which Mr. Harriman objected related to the purchase of the stock of other railroads in the interest of the Union Pacific dividend.

In regard to the \$28,000,000 of Illinois Central, purchased at \$175 a share, the questions which Mr. Harriman declined to answer are as follows:

"Were the 90,000 shares sold by yourself, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Sullivan pooled?"

"Was it acquired for the purpose of selling it to the Union Pacific?"

"Was the stock purchased by you at a much lower price than \$175 with the intention of turning it over to the Union Pacific?"

"Did you have any interest in the 105,000 shares sold at the time by Kuhn, Loeb & Co. to the Union Pacific?"

"Was the 105,000 shares acquired by the same pool for the purpose of selling to the Union Pacific?"

Disorder in Berlin.

Berlin.—The determination of the socialists to secure direct universal suffrage, combined with their indignation against Chancellor von Buelow's curt declaration refusing their demand, gave rise Sunday to an unusual scene and a monster popular demonstration, accompanied by disorders in the streets of the Prussian capital, in which 40,000 organized socialists participated with 30,000 sympathizers from time to time actively joined in the manifestations.

Broke a Texas Bank.

Dallas, Tex.—The Western Bank & Trust company of Dallas, the largest savings deposit bank in Texas, has been placed in the hands of a receiver, Henry D. Lindsley, with instructions to administer the affairs of the institution for the interest of the creditors. Officers of the bank declare that while on October 1 it was in the best condition of its history, a quiet run has prevailed since that time, and to meet it they have paid out over \$900,000.

Big Libel Suit Settled.

New York.—A settlement of the suit for \$400,000 damages for libel brought by Adolph S. Ochs and the New York Times against Wm. R. Hearst and the New York American, was announced in court Thursday when the hearing was about to be continued.

The Plague Nearly Banished.

San Francisco, Cal.—The campaign for the eradication of the bubonic plague in San Francisco which has been conducted by Dr. Rupert and a staff of 150 medical officials of the United States marine hospital is almost over. Only one case of plague has occurred in this city since December 26.

TORPEDO BOATS AT RIO JANEIRO

Never So Many Warships in Brazil's Harbor Before—No Accident Has Harmed the Connecticut.

Rio Janeiro.—The American battle-ship fleet was joined Friday in the harbor of Rio Janeiro by the torpedo boat flotilla, numbering six vessels, which arrived from Pernambuco and anchored near the 16 big battleships at 3:45 o'clock in the afternoon. The flotilla left Pernambuco January 13 and met with good weather on the voyage to this port. Some delay was occasioned by the machinery of the Lawrence, but a few hours sufficed to make repairs.

Lieutenant Commander Cone reports the health of the men of the torpedo flotilla as generally good, though there are some cases of malaria among them. The vessels in his command will sail for Buenos Ayres after coming, probably about January 21.

The scene in the harbor Friday was a most striking and picturesque one. Never before were so many warships anchored in port at one time. Besides the great fleet of 16 battleships, swinging idly at anchor with their white sides shining in the brilliant sunshine of a perfect day, there was the fleet of Brazilian warships, the German cruiser Bremen and finally, late in the afternoon, came the six American torpedo boat destroyers under Lieutenant Commander Cone, to swell the great fleet. Scores of small boats ran to and fro between the warships and the shore, carrying thousands of the men who had been granted leave for the day, while the officers were still being feted by the government, the city and the people of Rio Janeiro. Nothing occurred to break the absolute peacefulness of the scene in the harbor and the enjoyment of the men ashore.

Japanese Growing Uneasy.

Tokio.—Incoming cablegrams, indicating an overwhelming sentiment in America in favor of an exclusion bill, are causing much uneasiness among leaders of all shades of politics, who have repeatedly expressed the conviction that the Americans did not desire to discriminate against Japanese and would accept the attitude of the Japanese government as evidence of its sincere desire not to embarrass the American government and at the same time save the amour propre of the Japanese. Uneasiness has been intensified by the delay of a reply from Washington to the Japanese note of December 31.

French Routed the Moors.

Tangier.—News has reached here of a terrific ten-hour engagement in a ravine near Settatt Wednesday between a French column under the command of Gen. D'Amade, and a column commanded by Mulai Rachid, one of the chiefs of Mulai Hafid's forces. The French gained a splendid victory in the face of heavy odds, succeeding in dispersing the enemy and occupying Settatt.

Reject Bids for Balloon.

Washington.—Because of the incompleteness of the specifications accompanying them, the signal office of the army has practically decided to reject all the proposals submitted Thursday for furnishing a dirigible balloon. It is probable that further proposals will be asked for.

Edwards is Postmaster at Wichita.

Washington.—The president Thursday nominated William C. Edwards as postmaster at Wichita, Kan.

THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

A Condensed Account of Transactions at the National Capital.

The Most Important Items Gathered From Each Day's Session of Senate and House.

Hobson's Greater Navy.

Washington.—Representative Hobson introduced in the house Wednesday a bill to "provide a navy adequate for national defense." It appropriates \$50,000,000 annually for the purpose of constructing new battleships, the number and features of the vessels to be determined by the president under expert advice. It also authorized the president whenever in his judgment the national security and defense requires it, to order or purchase at home or abroad, vessels or other war material, the total cost of which shall not exceed \$50,000,000 in any one year, without further authorization.

Senators Will Not Say.

Washington.—In the senate Wednesday the bill to codify the penal laws was taken up. Mr. Heyburn, of Idaho, chairman of the joint committee on revision of the laws, explained the committee's work. Senator Burkett of Nebraska, said so important a measure should receive the attention of the senate. He referred to the almost deserted chamber whereupon a roll call was ordered and the consideration of the bill was begun. Five minutes after the completion of the roll the senate chamber was again almost empty, there being only ten members present.

First Pension Omnibus Bill.

Washington.—The first weekly omnibus bill was reported to the senate Wednesday by Senator McCumber, chairman of the pensions committee. This action was in accordance with the recent decision of the committee to save the time of the senate and to simplify the handling of pension legislation by combining many bills in one. The bill was placed on the calendar and may be placed upon its passage at any time without the necessity that has existed in the past of setting aside an entire afternoon for disposing of hundreds of bills separately.

Not a Responsible Bidder.

Washington.—The reply of counsel for the government in the suit of George W. Austin to restrain the secretary of the treasury from issuing Panama canal bonds was filed Friday in the supreme court of the district. On Monday the court will announce its decision. The reply alleges that the complainant is absolutely unable to fulfill his obligation to purchase \$3,000,000 of the bonds and that he is wholly without financial responsibility adequate to such an obligation.

Must Come Through President.

Washington.—The senate Thursday passed a resolution declaring that no communication from heads of departments, chiefs of bureaus or other executive officers will be received by that body unless they are sent in compliance with law or are transmitted by the president. The resolution was the result of objection as made by Senator Heyburn and Senator Hale to the reception by the senate of bills sent by Secretary Garfield in connection with a communication.

Extradition Treaty With Spain.

Washington.—The senate Thursday ratified and made public a treaty between the United States and Spain wherein it is agreed that Spain shall upon requisition, deliver up to justice persons charged with any of a list of certain crimes ranging from murder to slave trading.

To Protect Local Option.

Washington.—Senator Gore Wednesday introduced a bill providing that the interstate character of a shipment of liquor shall cease upon its arrival at the place within a state where consigned, and making the shipment subject to local laws from that time on.

Could Enlarge Their Farms.

Washington.—Senator Curtis has introduced a bill which will enable settlers of Western Kansas to buy outright at private sale from the government public lands adjoining their farms. The bill limits the purchase to 640 acres for each person.

To Open Indian Land.

Washington.—The senate committee on Indian affairs Thursday reported favorably a bill to open for homestead entry the surplus lands of the Flathead Indian reservation in Montana which have not been allotted to the Indians.

Confirmed Porto Rican Nominations.

Washington.—The nomination of Regis L. Post to be governor of Porto Rico was Thursday confirmed by the senate, as were all the other Porto Rican territorial nominations.

House Passed Pension Bills.

Washington.—After passing a large number of pension bills Friday the house of representative at 1:25 p. m. adjourned until Monday. The penal code bill was not taken up.