

NEBRASKA NEWS

GRAND ISLAND MAN A SUICIDE
AT COUNCIL BLUFFS.

ACCUSED OF DIAMOND THEFT

Was Engaged to be Married to
Iowa Young Woman Next Month
—Employer Confident of
His Innocence.

Robert Brown, son of E. E. Brown of Grand Island, Neb., who has been a resident of Council Bluffs for nearly a year, committed suicide Thursday. It has not been determined whether Brown was driven to the act through over-sensitiveness or fear of exposure of the alleged theft of two diamonds of the value of \$450. His employer is firm in believing Brown guiltless. Last December Homer Scarr, a bank clerk, had two diamonds stolen from his room. Brown at the time roomed across the hall. Scarr scouted the idea that Brown had taken the stones and would not consent to an inquiry with him as the suspected person. Brown was engaged to be married next month to Miss Margaret Coyle of Council Bluffs. Recently Miss Coyle was given a diamond by Brown and Brown was seen wearing another stone. Scarr's father and the chief

FALLS UPON CIRCULAR SAW.

Filley Man so Badly Cut He Cannot Live.

William Kay, a young man who has been working on the farm of Charles Hagerman, about two miles south of Filley, was fatally injured about five o'clock Thursday afternoon while working around a sawmill. Kay was helping saw cottonwood lumber and was struck by the log carrier while near the machine. He was thrown upon the swiftly revolving saw, lighting upon it on his left shoulder. He was unable to save himself, though the machine was stopped as quickly as possible. His left arm was almost severed from his body and a deep gash was cut in his back, through which his heart and lungs were plainly visible. Kay is 24 years of age and has been working for Mr. Hagerman for some time. His mother lives in Colorado. He is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith of Filley.

PARSONAGES NOT TAXABLE.

If Owned by Church and Not Rented for Profit.

Parsonages owned by church organizations and not rented for profit are exempt from taxation. This is the decision of the state board of equalization and taxation. Under the recent law property used exclusively for religious purposes is exempt from taxation. In some counties parsonages are not occupied and in many instances assessors have taxed them, but there has been no uniformity throughout the state. As the taxation of property has been completed

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Most Important Happenings of the Past Seven Days.

Interesting Items Gathered From all Parts of the World Condensed Into Small Space for the Benefit of Our Readers.

Miscellaneous.

Caleb Powers, ex-secretary of state of Kentucky, twice sentenced to death for killing Gov. Goebel at Frankfort and James Howard, an alleged accomplice, have been pardoned by Gov. Willson. The case has attracted interest throughout the country and thousands of petitions have been presented to Gov. Willson asking that the men be set free.

A Whitehead torpedo containing 220 pounds of gun cotton was exploded against the monitor Florida at Jamestown, Va. The vessel withstood the explosion and the test was declared a decided success by naval officers.

The conductors and motormen on the Joplin & Pittsburg railway have gone on a strike.

Twenty-seven persons were dangerously injured when a Missouri, Kansas & Texas passenger train plunged from the track into from three to five feet of water near Clinton, Mo.

One person was killed outright and three others probably fatally injured when a "Roller Coaster" train jumped the track at a Denver pleasure resort. In the Republican primary of South Dakota Senator Kittridge was defeated for renomination by Gov. Crawford by 2,700 majority.

In an explosion and fire which partially destroyed the packing plant of Morris & Co. at Kansas City, one man was killed outright and four others injured, one fatally. The monetary loss will be upward of \$200,000. The firemen were handicapped by the flood waters of the Kaw river which surrounded the buildings to a depth of three feet.

The Lucitania clipped seven minutes from the record of her sister ship, the Mauretania, on her last trip from Queenstown to New York. The time was four days, 20 hours and eight minutes.

Roy Skibbe, a 12-year-old boy, was drowned in the flood at Topeka.

In the capitol graft cases at Harrisburg, Pa., the jury was ordered to acquit ex-Treasurer Snyder, ex-Auditor Mathius and the ex-superintendent of grounds and buildings, Shumaker.

Chester A. O'Connell, a machinist, was taken from a freight car at New York crazed from want of food and water. He had boarded the train at Jacksonville, Fla., and had been locked in for seven days.

By means of the vote of Senator Foelker of Brooklyn, who was taken to Albany from a sick bed, both of Gov. Hughes' anti-race track gambling bills were passed by the New York senate by one vote. The bills will become a law at once.

The president and Secretary Taft have served notice on Panama that the coming election must be conducted fairly. If it is otherwise the United States will intervene.

As the result of the recent local option elections held in Oregon 270 saloons have been abolished.

Seven persons were injured at Cleveland, O., when a charge of dynamite was exploded under a street car.

Thieves broke the display window in the jewelry store of Hyman, Berg & Co. of Chicago and escaped with 60 gold watches and miscellaneous jewelry valued at \$3,000.

The jury in the case of Raymond Hitchcock, the comedian, has returned a verdict at New York of acquittal. He was charged with mistreating young girls.

Twenty-two thousand visitors attended the Confederate reunion at Birmingham, Ala.

The Kaw river reached 28.5 feet above low water mark at Kansas City this year, just one foot higher than the flood of 1904.

At their annual convention in Milwaukee there were 1,000 brewers present representing an aggregate capital of \$680,000,000 and giving employment to 2,000,000 persons. Their annual output is 58,546,000 barrels of beer.

The flood conditions at Kansas City were worse this year than in 1904. Business on the live stock exchange was entirely suspended owing to the yards being flooded.

R. P. Duncan, a leading attorney of Stanberry, Mo., apparently without cause, shot down City Marshal Butler in a crowd of 40 men. Butler will die.

Daniel F. Kellar, former captain in the United States army, has been convicted of stealing blank checks from the quartermaster at Fort Sheridan.

A decrease of more than 22,000 in the number of idle freight cars in the latter half of May is shown by a report of the American Railway association.

In the local option election at Eldorado Springs, Mo., the liquor element won by a majority of 35.

Frank Good, a young farmer near Peabody, Kan., killed his three motherless children and then committed suicide. Despondency over the death of his wife who died last month is given as the cause.

Rumors that Attorney General Bonaparte was to resign are positively denied at the White House.

The big rail mill of the United States Steel corporation at Ensley, Ala., has resumed operations.

Dr. David Jayne Hill, the American Ambassador to Germany was received in audience by Emperor William at Berlin and warmly greeted. Dr. Hill succeeds Charlemagne Tower at Berlin.

Senator Warner of Missouri is slated by the Taft managers as chairman of the committee to notify the secretary of war of his nomination.

William K. Vanderbilt's colt, Northeast, won the Grand Prix race at Paris which is worth this year about \$72,000.

The National Republican Committee has decided all the contests submitted to it, involving 219 seats in the convention. Secretary Taft was given 216 delegates and Senator Foraker 3.

The Allison Glass works of Centralia, Ill., employing 300 men has filed a petition in bankruptcy.

Heavy rains throughout central Kansas have caused the rivers to rise again and another flood along the Kaw is predicted.

The Standard Oil company has been convicted of rebating in the federal court at Rochester, N. Y. The maximum fine that can be assessed is \$800,000.

W. B. Kirkpatrick of Topeka has been elected president of the Knights and Ladies of Security. John B. Abrahams of Topeka was elected secretary.

While attempting to save the life of his mother Ben Bird, an 18-year-old farmer boy living near Pittsburg, Kan., choked his father to death.

William Davis Ely, the oldest alumnus of Yale and a member of the class of 1836, is dead in Providence, R. I., aged 92 years.

David Conway, a watchman at a Frisco bridge near Muskogee, Ok., was killed and robbed by four bandits who escaped on a hand car.

The railroads have united for a fight on two-cent passenger rates, not only on the reasonableness of the rate but on the power of states to enact and enforce them, and Missouri has been selected as the battle ground.

A registered mail pouch said to contain more than \$50,000 disappeared recently at Kansas City while in transit from Los Angeles, Cal., to New York. While reluctantly admitting the disappearance the postal authorities refuse to make public any of the details.

Edward VII., king of England, and Emperor Nicholas of Russia recently held a notable conference at Reval, Russia, which may have a far-reaching effect on future world policies.

Eastern business men have appealed to Secretary Taft to use his influence with the Republican national convention in favor of a declaration for a credit currency.

The supreme court of Illinois has disbarred George J. Monroe, Frederick Kingsland and Daniel Webber, attorneys of Chicago, for unprofessional conduct.

The steel trust has announced a reduction in the price of finished products in the form of billets, bars, plates, structural iron, merchant pipe and wire nails.

The National Federation of Millers held their annual convention in Detroit recently.

The corporation commission of Oklahoma announce that a reduction of from 25 to 40 per cent in express rates is soon to be made in that state.

The Harvester trust made a profit of \$11,228,317 during 1907.

Personal

Blind Tom, the famous negro musician who has been exhibited throughout the world, is dead in Hoboken, N. J. He was born a slave in Georgia about 1850.

Frederick Arthur Stanley, earl of Derby, is dead in London. As Lord Stanley he was governor general of Canada in 1888-93.

Senator Bailey of Texas was operated upon in New York recently for throat trouble. He is rapidly improving.

Petitions are being circulated in Illinois for the nomination on the Democratic ticket of John Mitchell, former head of the miners union, for the office of governor.

Gov. Hughes of New York has emphatically reiterated his former declaration that under no circumstances would he accept the nomination for vice president from the Republican national convention.

David B. Hill, the New York Democratic leader, has sailed for Europe on his first trip across the Atlantic.

Gov. Curtis Guild of Massachusetts is an avowed candidate for the office of vice president on the Republican ticket. His name will be presented to the Chicago convention by Senator Lodge.

Col. John F. Finerty, the leader of the Fenian raid on Canada in the late 60's, is dead in Chicago.

P. COURSEY RICHARDS FREE.

Twelve Years' Sentence Commuted by Governor.

P. Coursey Richards of Lincoln, Neb., serving a 12 years' sentence in the penitentiary for a criminal assault upon his young stepdaughter, went forth a free man Monday. Gov. Sheldon commuted the sentence as a result of an application by the prisoner and after a public hearing. Mr. Richards has been on parole at the Soldiers' home at Milford, the parole having been issued by Gov. Mickey before his term of office expired. Mr. Richards will go to Pennsylvania where relatives live and enter the employ of a railroad company. He was convicted largely on the evidence of his wife, and her daughter, the latter being his stepdaughter and the alleged victim. The daughter wrote Gov. Sheldon that the father had been wrongfully convicted and a physician who was somewhat interested in the trial wrote the governor that in his judgment the crime charged had probably never been committed. This testimony indicates that an innocent man has served time in the penitentiary, and caused the governor to commute the sentence. Four years were taken from the original sentence of 12 years. Counting the time spent at the Soldiers' home on parole, Richards served six years in prison. He was a soldier in the civil war and many veterans interested themselves in his application for a pardon.

CLAIM SCARCITY OF CATTLE.

Explanation Offered for High Price of Beef.

To increase the supply of beef and therefore lessen its cost to the American household is one of the principal objects underlying the efforts of the department of agriculture at Washington to secure clover, alfalfa or other grass that will thrive in the semi-arid regions of the Northwest. Beef and beef products are said to have reached the highest prices recorded in 20 years and the dealers claim that this is due to scarcity of cattle.

It is to increase the supply of beef by increasing the grass belt in the West that the department of agriculture has again sent N. F. Hansen of Brookings, S. D., to make a thorough investigation of the plant life of northern Russia and Siberia. Professor Hansen will visit the sections of northern Europe and Asia where climatic conditions are similar to those of the semi-arid lands of Wyoming, Colorado, Montana and the Dakotas. If an alfalfa or clover can be found which will withstand these climatic conditions a hundred head of cattle could be fed on the land now required by ten.

Famous Blind Tom is Dead.

"Blind Tom," famous negro musician, marvel of three generations of playgoers, died Saturday in Hoboken, N. J., where he had been living for years in retirement and subsisting on charity. Thomas Wiggins is the name given in his burial certificate, but the surname was one which the famous pianist adopted. He was born a slave near Columbus, Ga., about 1850. In early childhood, Tom, who was born entirely blind and more than half idiotic, showed himself remarkably imitative, frequently stealing into the house of his master to reproduce on the pianoforte music he had heard played by others. In 1861 he became so proficient on the instrument that he was taken to New York and exhibited as a phenomenon and later was widely heard in the United States and Europe.

Woman Gets in First Shot.

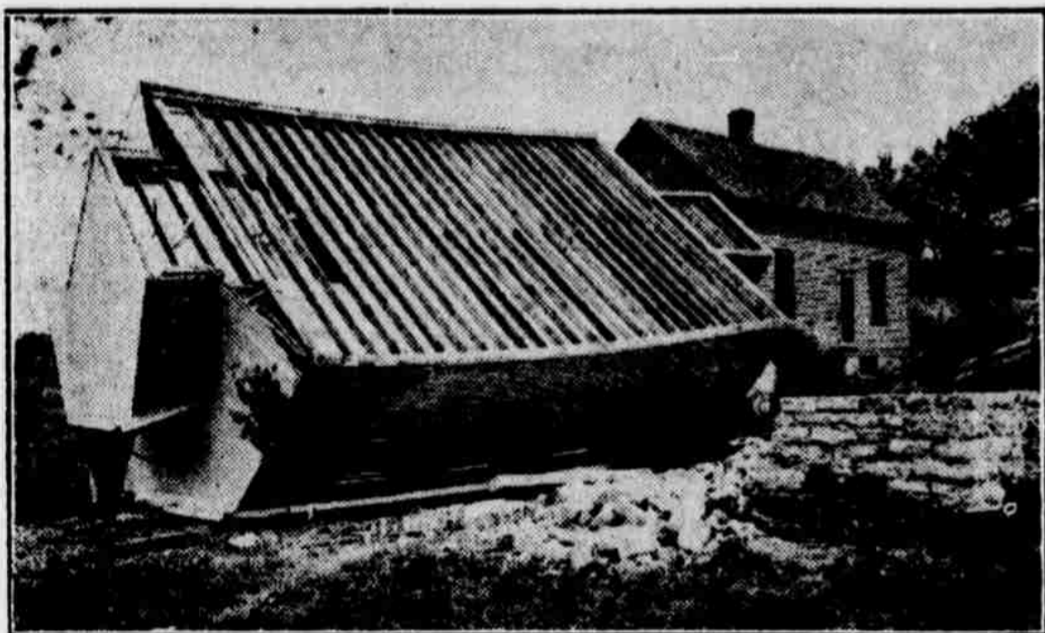
Charles Ray, a farmer living near Jasper, Mo., was shot and killed by his wife, Fanny Ray, shortly after noon Monday. The fatal shot was fired from the second-story window of the Ray home, a shotgun heavily loaded with buckshot being used. Ray was carrying a shotgun himself, at the time of the shooting. Ray had left the field and was going into the house yard. Upon seeing his wife at a downstairs window he is alleged to have said: "Now I have got you." Mrs. Ray rushed to a second-story window and fired the fatal shot.

Pearls From the Mississippi.

The receding of the Mississippi river following the flood stage has revealed many pearls thrown up by the high waters. Five thousand dollars' worth of pearls are said to have been picked up at Prairie du Chien, Wis., and valuable finds are being reported from Genoa, Lansing, Victory and other river points.

Insane Woman Slays Six.

Mrs. Daniel Cooper shot and killed her husband, five of her six children and herself in their home at Cadillac, Mich., Saturday night. The sixth child was fatally wounded. Mrs. Cooper is said to have been subject to spells of dementia.



CHURCH AT LOUISVILLE TIPPED OVER BY RECENT CYCLONE.

of police questioned Brown about the diamonds, Brown declaring his mother had given them to him. Brown consented to bring the stone he had at his room to the station for examination. After an hour's wait the chief telephoned Brown's rooming house, when the discovery of Brown's suicide was made. The affair has created a sensation. Brown was an exemplary young man and had many friends. He was 20 years old.

INCREASE IN LAND VALUES.

\$6,000,000 Boost Reported in Red Willow County.

The predicted boosting of the assessed valuation of the state which it was thought would be caused largely through the increased valuation of real estate is borne out by a report of the county clerk of Red Willow county to Secretary of State Junkin. The report shows that real estate in Red Willow county was last year listed at \$4,444,150 full value and this year it was increased to \$10,300,000. From every quarter comes reports of a large increase in real estate. Other property is also supposed to show an increase, but the greatest is looked for in real estate for the reason that this is the first revaluation of land since the enactment of the general revenue law. This law provides for valuing land every four years, while personal property is listed each year. When the present revenue law first went into effect it was said real estate was not valued at its actual worth. The railroad tax commissioners have since used this statement as an argument in favor of the lowering of their taxes or an increase in land values. This year the new county assessors were cautioned by the state board to assess all property at its full value and the results are now appearing. The total assessed value of all the property in Nebraska last year was \$329,413,349. Before the county assessors went to work it was predicted that this would be increased this year to \$350,000,000. The state board will not take up the work of equalizing between counties and classes of property in counties until it completes the valuation of railroad property and also adjusts values of railroad property in towns under the terminal tax law.

Paid Inheritance Tax.

The estate of the late Ford Lewis of Beatrice Thursday paid the sum of \$1,440.95 into the county treasury under the inheritance tax law. This is the first of the cases settled which were recently begun against the estates by the county attorney.

by county assessors this ruling comes too late to be applied by the assessors this year, but it is supposed the state board can strike out all such property when it reviews the work of assessors. Under the old revenue law many disputes and several suits were instituted to settle the right of churches to have property that was used as a parsonage exempted from taxation. In some cases the churches rented residences from private parties and then asked for exemption.

Under the ruling made by the state board all this is cleared up, though there is nothing to prevent persons from appealing to the courts. The state board rules that parsonages owned by a church organization, whether vacant or occupied by a pastor, and not rented to other persons for profit, are exempt from taxation.

NEBRASKA MAN IS PROMOTED

John R. Berg Given Place of Responsibility at Washington.

In the reorganization of the government printing office at Washington by Public Printer Leach, John R. Berg of Nebraska gets a good place. Mr. Berg, formerly chief of the Congressional Record division of the office, has been promoted to the office of superintendent of work. He will have charge of the mechanical output of the big printery. Mr. Berg came to Washington from Nebraska City as compositor on the Congressional Record in 1883. We was with in four years thereafter promoted to proof reader, and in 1897 was made assistant foreman of the Congressional Record division. In 1903 he was made foreman, which position he resigned to accept his promotion.

Test Free High School Law.

The free high school law passed by the last legislature is to be the subject of a combined attack from several school districts in Richardson county for the purpose of testing the validity of this act. For 12 years various persons in the office of the state superintendent have tried to secure the adoption of a valid free high school law, a law that will permit a pupil living in a district where there is no high school to attend a high school, the cost of his tuition to be paid by a county or district tax. Two or three such laws have been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. Senator King of Polk introduced S. F. 217 in the last legislature and it became a law. It provides for the payment of 75 cents a week by each non-resident pupil, the district of his residence to raise the money by taxation.