

CAPITAL CITY NEWS

ITEMS OF INTEREST AROUND THE STATE HOUSE.

THE WORK OF THE LAW MAKERS

Legislative Facts and Gossip—News of the State Capitol.

Dr. Avery Acting Chancellor.
Dr. Samuel Avery, head professor of chemistry, was unanimously elected acting chancellor of the University of Nebraska by the board of regents this week. Dr. Avery will begin his duties January 1, when Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews' resignation takes effect.

Professor Avery was born in 1865, at Lemont, Illinois. He took his first degree at Doane college, graduating from there in 1887. He took his B. S. degree at the University of Nebraska, graduating from there in 1897. In 1896 Professor Avery took his doctor's degree at Heidelberg.

Professor Avery's career has not been one of spectacular, but of steady and consistent progress. He came directly to the University of Nebraska after leaving Heidelberg as an adjunct professor of chemistry. He was here until 1892, when he went to the Uni-



Dr. Samuel Avery, Acting Chancellor.

versity of Idaho as professor of chemistry and chemist of the agricultural experiment station. He was there until 1891, when he returned to the University of Nebraska as professor of analytical and organic chemistry. In 1902 he became professor of agricultural chemistry and chemist at the University of Nebraska experiment station. In 1905 he became head professor of chemistry in this university, which position he has held ever since.

Professor Avery has contributed considerable to modern chemical literature. He is the author of station bulletins on aromatic gluteric acids and the constitution of paris green, etc. He is also the joint author of Nicholson and Avery's "Exercises in Chemistry." He is a member of the American Chemical society and the German Chemical society of Berlin.

Must Enlarge State House.

If the legislature adopts the recommendation which State Land Commissioner H. W. Eaton will embody in his biennial report it will hustle and make room for more state officers or abolish some of the state departments which it has created. Seven judges of the supreme court must be given office rooms in the state house and there are none to spare unless radical rearrangement of rooms is made.

Mr. Eaton recommends three ways out of the trouble. He will ask the legislature to abolish some of the new departments it has created or fit up the basement for office rooms, or move the state library and the department of justice to the proposed historical building across the street from the capitol grounds.

The latter can be done if the legislature makes appropriation for a historical building large enough to accommodate both the society and the departments which it is proposed to house in the building.

No Banquet for Sheldon.

Out of deference to the views of Governor Sheldon the banquet to have been given in his honor January 5 in Lincoln, has been abandoned by the committee which has been making arrangements for the affair.

The committee issued the following statement: "In view of the fact that there seemed to be no fitting time for the proposed banquet prior to the inaugural week of the incoming administration, Governor Sheldon thought it inexpedient to interrupt the spirit of that occasion with a demonstration more or less personal to himself. Out of deference, therefore, to his views the committee has cancelled all the banquet arrangements."

Warden Beemer's Report.

Warden Beemer's report of the state penitentiary for the past two years shows that at present there are 433 convicts incarcerated, of which 334 are white and 99, or 21 per cent are negroes. The census of 1900 shows that the white population of the state is 1,056,526 and the negro population is 6,269, but little more than six-tenths of one per cent. This indicates that thirty-five times as many negroes are in the penitentiary as there are whites in proportion to the population.

The population of the state penitentiary November 30, 1908, was 433. Of this number 334 were white, 89 colored, 9 Indians and 1 Japanese. Five were women of which two were white and three were colored. The white convicts are one to each 3,746 of the state; the colored convicts are one to each thirty-four of the colored population; Indians are one to each 369. Two of the prisoners are sentenced to be hanged, thirty-six to life imprisonment, thirty have sentences from fifteen to thirty years, and the remainder three months to fourteen years.

The convicts earned during the past two years for the state \$71,323.81 which is paid into the state treasury.

Cost of Maintaining Soldiers' Home.

The per capita cost of maintaining the soldiers' home at Grand Island for the year 1907, was \$198.66, according to the report of Commandant D. W. Hoyt, and for the year 1908, it was \$196.49.

The total value of products raised on the farm during the biennium was \$20,571.14 of which there is now on hand products of the value of \$2,368.10. At the close of the biennium there are in the home 247 men and 112 women; thirty were absent on furlough. The net loss in membership during the past year was twenty-four. During the previous year the net loss was thirty. In 1907 there were forty-one deaths and in 1908 there were fifty-two deaths.

The population of the soldiers' home at Milford, December 1, 1906, as shown by the biennial report filed with the governor by Joseph Presson, commandant, is 183. There were received during the biennium 100; discharged and died 132; members December 1, 1908, 151 of which 143 are men and eight are women.

Organization of New Legislature.

As is natural the matter of the house speakership presents the most interesting field for speculation. At least half a dozen candidates for the speakership are known and it is not unlikely that these will be added to, when the members collect and the real active canvass is made just previous to the opening of the session.

At the present time the leading candidates for the palace are Ralph Clark of Richardson county, C. W. Pool of Johnson, H. R. Henry of Holt, A. H. Bowman of Nuckolls and W. J. Taylor of Custer. It is presumed that Douglas county will have a candidate and either W. S. Shoemaker or W. S. Stoecker are picked for the candidate to get the support of the delegation.

For secretary of the senate four candidates have entered the field, E. A. Walrath, editor of the Osceola Democrat and secretary of the populist state committee; W. H. Smith, editor of the Seward Independent-Democrat; Davis of Ord and J. R. Hunter of Sioux county.

Report of Hastings Asylum.

The report of W. B. Kerns, superintendent of the Hastings insane asylum, was filed with the governor this week. This shows that on December 1, 1906, there were 972 patients in the hospital, 664 of whom were men and 308 were women. During the two years just ended 433 patients were admitted to the asylum, 255 being men and 178 being women; 227 patients have been returned in that time from parole; 170 have been discharged, 44 paroled, and 163 have died. There is a total of 1,045 patients now incarcerated. The daily average attendance has been 1,023 for the entire biennium. The average cost per year of maintenance foots up \$150.83. The superintendent says that he is glad the name of the institution was changed from "The Hospital for the Incurable Insane," to "The Nebraska State Hospital." Under the new management fifty-three counties are now responsible to this institution and the remaining to the other hospitals for the insane.

Reports of State Institutions.

Reports from state institutions now on file with the governor show that with two exceptions the seven institutions reporting cost less per capita for the six months ending November 30, than for the same period in 1907. The two showing an increase per capita cost over the same period last year are the industrial school for girls at Geneva and the institute for the blind at Nebraska City. The per capita cost for the six months ending November 30 for each year is as follows:

	1907	1908
Asylum, Lincoln	\$ 92.55	\$ 86.30
Soldiers' Home, G. I.	107.55	103.71
Soldiers' Home, Mil-		
ford	97.94	85.30
Inst. for Blind	137.31	141.23
Deaf and Dumb Inst.	84.24	83.36
Boys' Indt. School	140.95	117.64
Girls' Indt. School	93.84	113.37

NEWS OF NEBRASKA

ITEMS OF GREATER OR LESSER IMPORTANCE OVER THE STATE.

THE PRESS, PULPIT AND PUBLIC

What is Going On Here and There That is of Interest to the Readers Throughout Nebraska.

Rules Against Sales to Minors.

According to the ruling of the board of fire and police commissioners there are no conditions under which a minor can buy intoxicating liquor in South Omaha. It makes no difference if the minor produces a written order from his parents the saloonman must refuse to produce the booze. This order was promulgated at the meeting of the board Friday evening and is considered to be one of the best orders that the board has thus far given out.

The order was brought about by the hearing of the Unzeiker case. It was charged that Unzeiker sold liquor to a minor. The saloonman produced evidence to show that the goods had been sold on an order from the parents. The case was dismissed.

Whittlesey in Barton's Place.

F. C. Whittlesey has been appointed as grand recorder of the Ancient Order of United Workmen to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of S. R. Barton, who has been elected auditor of state, the resignation to take effect January 1. It is expected that he will be a candidate for election at the next biennial grand lodge session to be held in May. He has for many years been a chief clerk in the grand recorder's office. It was rumored during the campaign that A. Galusha, ex-secretary of state, would succeed to this position, but there appears to have been no foundation for the rumor.

Bankruptcy Proceedings.

August Wagner of Columbus, referee in bankruptcy, held a session at Schuyler Wednesday in the matter of H. H. Woods, bankrupt. The bankrupt himself and an officer of the First National bank were examined in an effort to lessen the holdings of the bank in his property and increase the fund for general creditors, and in this they met with some success. Mr. Woods was formerly a building contractor and at one time did some work for the state. More recently he has been in the lumber and coal business until his creditors forced him into involuntary bankruptcy.

Raising Money for Academy.

Only \$2,500 remains to be raised for the purchase of the abandoned convent property at Hastings for the Dominican sisters, who propose to establish an academy therein. The property was formerly used as a Catholic convent. After the convent was closed the property was taken over by St. Louis investors on foreclosure proceedings and, although it cost upwards of \$100,000, it can now be bought for \$8,000. The Dominican sisters will establish an academy if the property is decided to them free of debt.

Partners in Crime to Pay.

Mrs. Matilda Ruser, and her paramour, John Slagle, held on the charge of shooting Emil Ruser with intent to kill, pleaded guilty to the charge before Judge Estelle in district court in session at Papillion. The shooting occurred nearly two months ago on the farm occupied by Ruser, south of Papillion. Slagle worked for Ruser. Judge Estelle sentenced the man to six years in the penitentiary and the woman to one year. The prisoners will remain in the Douglas county jail until taken to Lincoln.

Will Surrender Charter.

At a meeting of the members of George H. Thomas post, No. 171, G. A. R., at Alnsworth, Wednesday afternoon, it was voted to surrender the charter as there are not enough members left to fill the offices of the organization. A new organization was effected to look after the needy soldiers and their families.

Garage at Seward.

Harsberger & Jantze, a firm that has been in the automobile business at Aurora, have rented the east room of the building occupied by Perry Bradley's blacksmith shop, at Seward, and will open up an automobile garage there as soon as the roads get in condition to move their machines.

Man Killed at Grand Island.

E. R. Kickey, a barber, aged twenty-two years, whose home was at Joy, was run down and terribly mangled and probably instantly killed in the Union Pacific yards at Grand Island Thursday night by passenger train No. 11, going west about 3:15 a. m.

NEBRASKA HAPPENINGS.

State News and Notes in Condensed Form.

Valentine wants a humane society. J. G. Burdick has sold his harness shop at Aurora to R. C. Machamer.

There is a complaint throughout the country over the shortage of eggs.

The Wayne normal will open its winter term on Monday, December 28.

The big chicken show at Nebraska City will be pulled off December 22-24.

The State bank of Bartley has increased its paid up capital stock to \$15,000.

Sportsmen who kill jack rabbits say that they are very fat and make fine eating.

Ed Conkel has sold his eighty-acre farm north of Sterling to Fred Benson for \$90 per acre.

A \$25,000 school building will be erected at Gibbon. A man at Arlington has the contract.

The village streets at Linwood are being nicely graded and put in good condition for the winter.

The county clerk of Cuming county issued fifty hunting licenses up to the first of the month, this fall.

Meadow Grove appears quite cheery over its citizen, W. H. Pringle, who is one hundred and three years old.

Joseph Ord was hurt near Auburn by trying to handle too many horses at one time. He is about eighty years old.

Adam Bowers is making arrangements on his Banner county ranch to feed 2,700 sheep, and he will soon ship them in.

The total amount of farm mortgages filed in Gage county during the past month was \$42,110, and those released footed up \$59,438.

Miss Dessie McCutcheon, formerly of Cambridge, has been elected superintendent of the Kit Carson county, Colorado schools.

Mrs. P. J. Gilman has lived in North Platte for forty years, and on Thanksgiving the lady properly celebrated the event.

L. S. Needham, of Wayne county, shipped five cars of cattle to the Chicago market and realized \$7.25 per hundred for them.

A detail of soldiers is making headquarters at Murdock while preparing a map of that section of the country for government use.

Charles W. Connor, a pioneer of Furnas county, died in the poor house at that place a few days ago. He was seventy-eight years old.

The old street car rails must go at Beatrice. The council has ordered that they must be torn out of the street and taken away for good.

During the month of November there were filed with the county clerk of Adams county mortgages amounting to \$18,456.93 and \$12,858.06 were released.

Nebraska's alfalfa crop for 1908 will amount to 1,846,708 tons; the tame hay crop will be 2,601,538 tons; wild hay, 4,066,401 tons; potatoes will pan out 8,531,622 bushels.

Averill, near Alexandria has had three artesian wells constructed for the waterworks system. The three wells have a combined flow of about 275 gallons per minute.

A fake creek missionary has been working the people around Murdock during the past week for money. His true character was discovered, however, before he had gleaned much "gelt."

The birthday box in the Presbyterian church at Beatrice was robbed of its contents one night during the week. The box had been closed for nearly a year. The thief made quite a good haul.

Late Friday afternoon a deed was recorded at the office of the register of deeds making the second transfer of the Leavitt sugar factory since it went into the hands of the receiver. The consideration for the factory and the 197 3/4 acres of land was \$320,000. It was sold to Chester S. Morey of Denver.

One afternoon recently eighteen big strong men with teams went into the cornfield belonging to Everett Petty, near Ord, and before night the corn on forty acres was husked and in the crib. Both Mr. and Mrs. Petty have been sick for some time. The act was certainly a neighborly one, and was no doubt appreciated.

At the yearly meeting the farmers elevator company of St. Edwards, elected directors as follows: Dan Cahill, Jerry Flaherty, Shell Clark, L. C. Goodman, John Zimmerman, J. T. Burns and L. E. Anderson. The directors elected Dan Cahill president and Shell Clark secretary. George M. Thompson will remain as manager for another year.

Word was received at Red Cloud of the death of William Outhwait, which occurred at the home of his granddaughter in Seattle, Wash. Mr. Outhwait moved to Webster county from Ohio in 1874 and settled on what is now the G. M. Pierce farm. He moved to Seattle about ten years ago. The body was taken to Rockaway, Ohio, for burial. Mr. Outhwait was past eighty-five years old.

BATTLE IS LIKELY

DUTCH SHIPS CLEARED FOR ACTION AND FORTS ARE READY

CLASH PROBABLE AT ANY TIME

President Castro Traverses France Under Strict Pledge to Avoid Publicity—Ships Are Dispatched From Holland.

The government of The Netherlands has no intention of being negligent in the matter of the blockade of the Venezuelan coast, inaugurated by three of its warships last week. The battleship Jacob Van Heenskerk and the cruiser Gelderland left Willemstad, Friday at 11 o'clock for Venezuelan waters. They have been cleared for action.

It is believed that the warships will make a demonstration off La Guaira. Furthermore, they probably will begin seizing Venezuelan merchant vessels, thus putting a stop to the trade between Venezuelan ports.

A clash between the warships and the coastal forts of Venezuela is likely to follow any radical action, because the government at Caracas has expressed its intention of firing on the Dutch ships at the first "unfriendly act."

President Castro of Venezuela, left for Paris Friday. His physicians are anxious that he reach Berlin as soon as possible in order to undergo his operation, should specialists consider this necessary, consequently his stay in Paris will be short. A private car was reserved for the party. President Castro is accompanied by a special commissary of police.

It was officially announced Friday that the French government informed President Castro Thursday that he would be expelled from the country in case he made any "manifestation calculated to disturb the public order," gave interviews to journalists, or in any manner inaugurated a press campaign against France, or in justification of his own attitude or that of the Venezuelan government. Castro gave assurance that he came to France in the capacity of a private citizen to undergo an operation, and he promised to adhere to the wishes of the government.

Iowa Carries Away Trophy.

Iowa student judges carried off the \$1,000 trophy offered by the Western Grain Dealers' association in the national corn show competition, the award being made Thursday night. The Iowa team consisted of Messrs. Schnaidt, Wood Hendricks, Quaife and Murphy. The Kansas team was second and Missouri third.

There are now over a mile of prize exhibits strung out in the big auditorium gallery.

In the world's open classes the awards were as follows:

Fifty ears of corn of any variety: Johnson county corn club, Franklin, Indiana, \$515; second, Ray F. Bennett, Amon, Iowa, \$100; third, Sherman Township Corn club, Elliott, Iowa, \$10; fourth, John Sandberg, Whiting, Iowa, \$8; fifth, Lee Smith, DeSoto, Nebraska, \$6; sixth, J. R. Crookshank, Browning, Missouri, \$5.

Five Negroes Slain by White Man.

Without cause William Latura, already notorious, having killed and wounded a score of people, early Friday entered a local dive at Memphis, Tenn., and drawing a revolver, shot down four negroes, fatally wounded a fifth and wounded two others. Latura, who was with companions at the time, began the fray without warning or provocation. He stood at the bar drinking and turned and fired. When every negro in the place had fallen, he put his pistol in his pocket and left the place. Later he was arrested.

Pythians Will Build for Consumptives.

Dr. G. G. McConnell, commander-in-chief of the Knights of Pythias, announced Friday that it has been formally decided that a sanitarium for tuberculosis patients affiliated with the order shall be established in New Mexico. The cottages and other building, when sufficient funds have been collected from members of the order, will be erected on a large tract of land near Las Vegas donated for the cause by New Mexico lodges.

Mrs. Rice to Make Home in Boston.

Mrs. Abbie Rice, whose story of a suicide pact was told during the trial of Charles Davis for the murder of Dr. Rustin in Omaha, is to become a resident of Boston next spring. It has been learned that the woman's husband, Irving Rice, already has started to furnish a home for her there.

Nominations Confirmed.

The nominations of Martin A. Knapp of New York, chairman of the interstate commerce commission, and Herbert Livingstone Satterlee, of New York, to be assistant secretary of the navy, were confirmed by the senate Friday.